



Belden Noble Memorial Library

P.O. Box 339, 2759 Essex Rd.
Essex, NY 12936

July 2019

Dear Friends of the Belden Noble Memorial Library,

Back in the mid-1800s a corner of the H. & B. Noble General Store was set aside for books available to the public on loan. That corner was the beginning of the Belden Noble Memorial Library. In 1899 the Essex Free Library was granted a provisional charter by the University of the State of New York. Although we received our absolute charter in 1906, we consider 1899 our birthdate. To celebrate our 120th birthday, we are hosting an open house on July 27th from 2 to 4 pm. The event will include the unveiling of our History Wall, a major undertaking by Board member Monica Rumsey. Adeline Noble was a major figure in our early history and, if she is feeling up to it, she may make an appearance at our celebration.

The library has had a wonderful year financially. Our annual appeal was very successful, thanks to the commitment and generosity of the members of our community. In addition, we received a generous donation from the Brooks and Joan Fortune Family Foundation which will be used to expand our offerings for children and families. A grant from Stewart's will be used to purchase materials and books for "Miss Sally's" story times, focusing on Adirondack animals and Native Americans. The Essex Community Fund has also given us a grant to start some critical masonry work on the south side of the building: we are committed to maintaining the integrity of our historic structure. The Town is working with us on the masonry project. We also appreciate its support in the annual budget.

Joyce Sukel has returned to the Board after a time-out to care for her ailing husband. Now we can be assured the annual Volunteer Luncheon, bake sales, and silent auction will be managed with her skill and attention! We're glad she's back!

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Van Hoven

Colleen M. Van Hoven
President, Belden Noble Memorial Library Board