

Gilmanton Corner Public Library Book Chats

By Barbara Swanson,
GCPL Trustee

The Gilmanton Corner Public Library (GCPL) has been run entirely by volunteers for over 100 years! In December of 1911, the town's Home Study Club leased the old Pennock Shop in Gilmanton Village in order to establish a public library. Built in 1845, the Pennock Shop has housed several different stores and served as a printing office and a clubhouse for Gilmanton Academy students. Since becoming a library, the only changes to the building have been the removal of the fireplace and an ell addition. The library was opened to the public in January 1912, with members of the club taking turns as the librarian. The library continues to be staffed by dedicated volunteers. While there are also two privately funded libraries (the Iron Works Library and the



ABOVE RIGHT: The
Gilmanton Corner Public
Library

BELOW: The February 2023
Book Chat meeting



Year Round Library) available for residents, GCP is the only public library.

Last fall, the GCPL celebrated its 100th anniversary and recognized the volunteers who help keep the library running with a small get-together that included cake, punch and laughter. Of course, there were many lively discussions about books! One of the volunteers enjoyed the open discussion so much that she suggested that the GCPL might consider starting an informal chat about books. The others agreed and that great idea started "Book Chat" – monthly gatherings that are open to the public.

Unlike a typical book club, everyone is free to read whatever author and genre that they want. Discussions include likes as well as dislikes and sometime several readers have read the same book with varied impressions. It's been interesting to hear about different books and "Book Chat" has encouraged many of the library's patrons to try an author and genre that they might not have considered before.

What's going on at your library? We want to know about your events, programs, or a recent success! Please e-mail submissions to the editor, Katrinka Pellicchia, at k.pellicchia@nhlta.org.