

December 22, 2024

**To:** Town of Damariscotta

**From:** Skidompha Library Association

**Subject:** Appropriation Request 2024-2025

The Skidompha Library requests an appropriation from the town of Damariscotta of \$33,813.02 towards operating costs for fiscal year 2024-2025. This is the same amount we requested last year and maintains the current level of support from Damariscotta.

We receive anywhere between 10% and 12% of our operational budget from our service area municipalities, and rely on the generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations to keep Skidompha operating. That the Library is such a special place is due in no small part to that generosity, as well as the value our supporters and patrons see in our services and in the Library institution itself. Loss of any one of these critical funding sources would pose a significant hardship to the Library, and reduce the vital services we offer to the community.

**A. What are the purposes for which the requested funds will be used?**

Library services.

**B. How many Damariscotta residents received services last year?**

As of 12/21/24, Over 1100 residents are considered to have an active Skidompha Public Library account, and that over the 2023-2024 calendar year over 57,000 people have come through our door.

**C. Which services or support will be provided to Damariscotta residents if the requested appropriation is approved? Explain specifically how and why these funds can or will benefit the residents of Damariscotta directly.**

As we move forward, and with your support, we look forward to expanding our children's, teen's, and adult programming opportunities, adding to our collection of books, audiobooks, movies, and music, adding genealogical support, and

continuing our free computer access as well as printing, faxing, photocopying, and scanning services for Damariscotta residents.

We offer personal delivery of books and resources to individuals without access to the Library, and to congregate care facilities. We provided a fabulous intergenerational Summer Reading program, as well as an online children's story time. We continue to offer reader services to our patrons, and access to our two downloadable ebook collections. Adult online programming continues with our poetry club, a weekly mindfulness meditation group, adult book clubs, and our Virtual Chats for Champions program. Our computer access, WiFi, printing, faxing, scanning, and copying service remain available for patrons as well.

I continue to find the Library to be a critical resource for our community. Patrons frequently thank us for continuing to provide services, and describe in detail the importance of access to books and other media, and how the weekly personal contact involved in visiting the Library is central to their happiness. I am intensely proud of our library staff and how they have stepped up and responded to these difficult circumstances and to the needs of our community.

**D. Please explain why your program does not provide similar or duplicate services to Damariscotta residents from other agencies or programs?**

Skidompha is the only public library serving the residents of Damariscotta. Although there are other libraries in neighboring towns Damariscotta residents would be required to pay a fee to join them.

**E. If applicable, explain the nature of any endowment, contingency, or investment portfolio and the ability of the agency to use those funds for current operating purposes.**

Skidompha draws 5% from its endowment every year for operating costs.

Sincerely,

Matthew Graff  
Director, Skidompha Public Library

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Petition to the Town of Damariscotta to raise/appropriate funds for Skidompha Library (your organization)

We, the undersigned registered voters residing in the Town of Damariscotta, request the following article to be submitted to the voters of Damariscotta at the June 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

Article: To see if the Town will vote to raise or appropriate the sum of \$ 33,813 for Skidompha Library (name of provider agency).

	Printed Legal Name	Signature	Street & Number	Legal Town of Residence & Voter Registration
1	Lyndsey Williams	Lyndsey Williams	91 Belvedere Rd.	Damariscotta
2	JEANNE CAHILL DAVIS	Jeanne C Davis	26 Water St.	Damariscotta
3	Robert Brown	[Signature]	35 Hodgdon St	Damariscotta
4	Steven Hufnagel	St. B. Hufnagel	19 Church St.	
5	Molly Davis	[Signature]	35 Hodgdon St	
6	Gary Thompson	Gary Thompson	165 BAKER MEADOWS	
7	Abby Avantaggio	Abby Avantaggio	200 Heater RD	
8	ROBERT ANANTAGGIO	[Signature]	200 HEATER RD	
9	ROBIN PEDERSEN	[Signature]	32 Water St.	
10	LUCINDA SMITH	Lucinda Smith	23 High St.	

#### Circulator's Oath

I hereby make oath that I am the circulator of this petition, that all the signatures to this petition were made in my pr and belief, each signature is that of the person it purports to be.

Signature of Circulator [Signature] Printed Name Matthew Graft  
Signature of Notary [Signature] Printed Name Rebecca J. Bartolotta  
Subscribed to and sworn before me on this date: 12/30, 2024

#### Registrar's Certification

Municipality: Damariscotta Total Valid 10 Total Invalid 0  
I hereby certify that the names of all the petitioners listed as valid appear on the voting list as qualified to vote for the  
Signature of Registrar [Signature] Printed Name Rebecca J. Bartolotta

