Reopening plans: Beginning July 6, our library will move to stages three and four of our reopening plan. We will start by offering appointments for browsing and checking out books and other items, as well as appointments for using public computers or using the library’s wireless internet connection. Initially, the number of appointments will be very limited, with more times added as staff and patrons get comfortable with the new flow.

Expect visiting the library to look very different! Everyone will be greeted by a library staff member safety person who will assist you in navigating the new layout and traffic patterns. Wearing masks will be required to enter the library. We will post updates on the library website and social media channels as well as on the Tamworth Exchange.

Throughout our reopening stages we will continue offering curbside pickup of library materials and document services, so everyone will still have access to borrowing items and getting copies, printing, and faxes made. The library’s wireless connection is always available outside the library, in front and in back. See the library’s website, https://tamworthlibrary.org for updates and details about library services, programs, and more.

Join us in thanking the Tamworth Foundation for a grant that provided canopy tents and a picnic table to add sheltered outdoor space for wireless users behind the library, as well as an upgrade to higher speed for our internet connection (coming July 8), and for glass toppers to protect our custom oak circulation desk from harsh cleaners. We are very grateful!

Summer Program: You’ve seen it in your mailbox–this summer Cook Memorial Library invites all Tamworth folks to Imagine Our Story by participating in a four week series of summer fun, learning, and connecting. Each week will have a different theme and community-wide do-at-home activities. Watch “do you know” videos to learn from your neighbors. Bring the kids to themed Zoom storytimes. Share what you’ve done with a sketch for our virtual archive. The fun begins on July 6. Check the library’s website, social media, and the Tamworth Exchange each week to get details on how to participate.

Friends’ 5K Challenge: With summer fundraising events cancelled, the Friends of Cook Memorial Library suggest, “Why not do your own 5K challenge?” You can walk, run, bike ride or kayak with your friend or family on either Friday the 3rd of July, Saturday the 4th, or Sunday the 5th! When finished, come to the library and take your photo by the 5K banner, maintaining social distance. If you wish to make a 5K donation, envelopes will be available by the book drop for leaving them at the library, or donations may be mailed to Friends of Cook Memorial Library, 93 Main Street, Tamworth, NH 03886. You may also donate online using the Friends’ Paypal link on the library’s website. It’s a win/win as you will have fun and exercise while social distancing, and the library will receive much needed funds!

Our Virtual American Road Trip continues. In July, we will read Travels with Charley by John Steinbeck and then Zoom to talk about it on Monday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m. Thanks to a generous donation, we have copies of the book to lend, just let us know you’d like to borrow one. Follow or take part in the conversations on our blog, https://cooklibraryroadtrip.blogspot.com/

Bat Conservation: Ecology, Threats, and What You Can Do, with bat ecologist Kyle Shute. On Wednesday, July 22 at 7 p.m, join Chocorua Lake Conservancy and Cook Memorial Library for a live online presentation. Learn about NH’s eight bat species and how to protect them. Access this Zoom presentation at bit.ly/batzoom, or find a live link and more info at www.chocorualake.org or the CLC’s Facebook events page.

Anticrac Reading and Reflecting Group for Teens and Twentysomethings: Teens and young adults are invited to join Willa Canfield, Molly Canfield, and Fiona Davis-Walsh for a peer-led deep dive into the topics of race, racism, and antiracism. Using the workbook Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor by Layla F. Saad, participants will come together for a series of discussions throughout the summer, as well as reading and reflecting on their own.

Layla F. Saad’s book “leads readers through a journey of understanding their white privilege and participation in white supremacy, so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on black, indigenous and people of color, and in turn, help other white people do better, too.” (from the Me and White Supremacy book website) To sign up for the group and reserve a copy of the book, contact the library. In the fall, the library will hold a similar program for adults, using the same book.

Poetry Hour: We had little response to our call for poetry readings in June, so we’ll try again for July. We’re inviting you to send us an audio or video of you reading a favorite poem. We anticipate receiving poems read under trees and stars, in comfy armchairs and at kitchen tables, on mountain tops and by rivers. Most smartphones have a way to record audio and video. We can lend an audio recorder if you don’t have a smartphone. Contact mary@tamworthlibrary.org when you have a file ready to send. Please send your recording by July 20. We’ll compile the files into a short video that will be shared online on July 27.

We have a new Community Loom on the front lawn. Thanks to Norm Sizemore for making it! Come and add to the weaving!

The Friends of Cook Memorial Library wish everyone a fun-filled and safe July 4th weekend and thank you for your continued support.