

Rotary Club wants to install book stands in Pottstown

BY PAIGE COOPERSTEIN
READING EAGLE



The Pottstown Rotary Club would like to install two book stands at borough locations as part of the Little Free Library project, a nonprofit designed to make books accessible to small communities.

George Jackson, chairman of Rotary's literacy committee, told borough council at a meeting Wednesday that the

club would assume all costs associated with installing and maintaining the stands. The club would also supply the books, he said.

Jackson said the club would like to put one stand at Smith Family Plaza, next to borough hall on High Street, and the other at the Rotary Pavilion

in Riverfront Park along College Drive. Both are borough-owned properties.

Council said it would vote on the issue at Monday's meeting, but many supported the idea.

Councilman Ryan R. Proccal said he would volunteer to help build and install the book stands. Councilwoman Carol L. Kulp suggested the Mosaic Community Land Trust gardens on Chestnut Street as other locations for

the book stands.

Jackson said Rotary had also considered expanding the little library project to the neighborhood parks in Pottstown.

The book stands would be roughly cupboard-sized and made of wood with Plexiglas doors and magnetic strips to secure the doors. Installation would require digging about 2 feet deep and standing the post for the cabinet in a cement base.

The Little Free Library project allows people to take books without necessarily returning them. People could also leave different books in place of the ones they took.

Richard Whittaker, another Rotarian, thought the little libraries would be a good attraction for people who reach the borough via the Schuylkill River Trail.

"Especially when the trail is finished, a lot more people are going to come through

Pottstown," he said.

The Rotary Pavilion overlooks the trail and the river.

"It's a nice little place to sit and read," Whittaker said.

Mayor Sharon Valentine-Thomas was excited about having the little libraries in Pottstown.

"It's a great idea," she said.

For more information, visit www.littlefreelibrary.org.

Contact Paige Cooperstein: 610-371-5021 or pcooperstein@readingeagle.com.