

Director's Report March 11 – April 9, 2014

Budget update

I attended the Finance Commission's public meeting on March 24 for the Municipal Sub-Committee's presentation. Questions were raised about the library project budget and ceiling issues. There were no questions raised on the Library's FY 2015 budget request.

Main Library Re-opening

The Main Library re-opened on Saturday, March 8 after removal of the ceiling was completed. Patrons have been making heavy use of the building since then and library users have not expressed displeasure with the closings and say they feel bad for the staff. The Branch was very active during the three week period. I was in the Library on both weekend days ready with a hand-out on the ceiling issue, but few people were interested. I have heard that there is concern in the community over the financial questions for the eventual replacement of the ceiling. Our publicity states that the Town is pursuing insurance claims and that is money still available in the project budget. This may be confusing to some, but the situation has not yet been resolved.

Trudy Walsh Retirement

Ms. Walsh has worked in the Children's Department for more than thirty years. Her last day will be May 1. Trudy is known and respected for her love and deep knowledge of folk tales and for her excellent children's programs. Over the years, she has meticulously listed thousands of books in our collection by topic and by target age. These lists have been used by hundreds of library patrons. Her public service work has been exemplary. She expertly guides young readers and their families to just the right story for any occasion or interest. Trudy represents the best of the Westwood Public Library and we wish her good health and happiness in the years ahead.

Middle School Policy Change

We have updated our behavior rules for the Gallery, Teen and Adult Departments. The staff felt that our efforts to provide an appropriate environment for teens, specifically Middle School students, and the general public was not working. I contacted Middle School Principal Allison Borchers to discuss this and she shared Thurston's Behavior Rubric with me. The revisions make the rules more specific and we believe this will give students a clear set of expectations for their use of the Library. We will enforce the rules consistently so everyone understands that certain behaviors have consequences.

Web Site Update

June Tulikangas and I have been meeting with Adult and Children's Department Heads for several months to begin design on a new web site for the Library. I have spoken with the Town's Information Services Director Donna McClellan about our needs and she has agreed to join the process. We plan to interview several web design companies with library experience. Donna is interested in upgrading the quality of the Town's web site. I would like to make a short presentation to the Board on April 14 to show you what we'd like to achieve.

Permanent Building Committee Update

The PBC will next meet on Wednesday, March 9 at Town Hall. I understand that the draft report commissioned by the PBC on the ceiling failure has been reviewed by Counsel and sent to TLT and Western Surety. Our request for LEED certification has been submitted to the U.S. Building Council and we should hear back in six weeks. The LEED grant total from the Mass Board of Library Commissioners is approximately \$185,000.

New Board Member

Amelia Rands has returned nomination papers for one of the open spots on the Board. I contacted her and we set a date to meet in April to discuss the role of the Library Trustee. I have sent her the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' Trustee Handbook and other materials.

Friends of the Library

The Friends will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, April 10 with author William Landay (*Defending Jacob*) as guest speaker. The Friends will begin a three-day book sale at the Main Library beginning on Thursday, April 24.

All Staff Meeting

There will be a meeting for all staff on Thursday, April 24. Topics to be covered include the revise behavior guidelines, updates on ceiling and other building issues, summer programs, etc.

Library Tours

I gave tours to two groups this past month: the Goodnow Library Foundation from Sudbury and the Capital Committee from Nobles & Greenough.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Viti, Library Director