



**Director's Report – Tricia Perry**  
**Westwood Public Library**  
**8 February 2021**

**Staffing / Recruiting Update**

**Library Director**

Joan Courtney Murray and Linda Unger reported that the Library Director job posting was posted on Mon. Feb. 1 as planned. So far, there are 13 applicants. A “Search Committee” will be established, which will include Joan Courtney Murray, Paul Fitzgerald, and Mary Beth Persons, with staff and community representation as well. At the January 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Trustees, the group discussed having a listening session with Paul, Chris, Joan and the library team to hear their thoughts on what they would like to see in the next Director. Due to extenuating circumstances, this has not yet occurred, but Joan and committee will be scheduling that in the next week or so.

**Head of Adult Services**

We first advertised this position in mid-October, with 39 applicants. In early November, a candidate was identified for a final interview with the Town Administrator and Head of Human Resources. That process was completed, but the selected applicant withdrew after their final interview. In light of the importance of this position and focusing on the needs of the community and the institution, the search committee was unanimous in its decision to re-post the position.

The reposting occurred on January 14<sup>th</sup>, and there were 10 new applicants, with several highly qualified applicants. At this time, Interviews have been held via Zoom and in-person for candidates that have moved forward in the process. Lizzy and I will be verifying references, and hope to put forward a recommendation to the Town Administrator and Head of Human Resources of a candidate for a final interview early this week.

**Reference Librarian**

The position posting remains active, with 63 applications received to date for the position of Adult Services / Reference Librarian. At this time, several candidates have been identified for a preliminary Zoom interview process. In-person interviews will be held onsite with applicants who proceed to the next interview phase, which will include a “mock reference interview” as well as a book talk. The interview team will include Library Department Heads as well as Teen Librarian, Felicia O’Keefe.

**Budget:**

The FY22 budget process is underway, and the FY22 Municipal Budget Book will be presented to the Finance Committee tomorrow evening (February 9<sup>th</sup>). Following that, I anticipate that we will be scheduled to meet with the members of the Finance Committee Municipal Subcommittee. That

meeting date has not yet been established. In the next few weeks, Lizzy and I will be working together to review materials and status of both FY21 and FY22 budgets so that she will be thoroughly familiar with the process and the data.

### **Islington Branch Library**

Weekly progress and review meetings with architect (Mike McKay), Tower Construction, OPM Arcadis staff and Town Administration and other departments continue. Framing and sheathing are continuing for the next several weeks. As discussed at the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Trustees, we have reached out to Tucker Library Interiors to set up a meeting to discuss stacks and shelving layouts in specific detail. At this time, a decision has been made for the selection of carpeting color (grey vs. tan – group went with the gray!). Weekly progress continues to be chronicled by Karen Cagen, unofficial Library Photographer! This photo of the current site and progress to date was taken by the architect (Michael McKay) on February 1, 2021.



### **Programming**

***Browsing by Appointment-Children's Room Collections Note received from a very happy patron last week!***

*Dear Lizzy: Thanks so much for the awesome book selection for the playgroup and for letting my kids browse and choose books. They were practically giddy when we got to the car.*

*That 15 min in the library was as good as a trip to the candy store for them. They both exclaimed how fun it was to be in the library and choose their own books. I never knew how much they missed it. Such a good reminder of the joy simple things can bring. I will be booking browsing slots in the near future, that's for sure. Thanks again and have a wonderful weekend, Tarynne*

### Limited Express Browsing by Appointment @ the Library!

At this time, Express Browsing by Appointments allow for full access to the Children's Room, as well as limited browsing collections for teens and adults in the Gallery.

#### 15 Minute appointments are available:

Monday-Thursday	10:00 AM- 1:00 PM & 3:00 PM- 6:00 PM
Friday	10:00 AM-1:00 PM & 3:00 PM-5:00 PM
Saturday	11 AM-3:00PM

#### Special Hours for Seniors or immunocompromised Patrons

Tuesday/Thursday	9:00 AM-10:00 AM
------------------	------------------

**Tax Forms are available for Curbside Pickup when Library is open:** 1040 Booklet with Instructions and Forms, as well as the Mass Department of Revenue's Form 1. Staff will also make copies of specific tax forms upon request.

#### UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

##### Islington Branch Book Club

March 10th @ 7PM *Circe* by Madeline Miller

##### Historical Fiction Book Group

March 2nd @ 10AM *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell

April 6 @ 10AM *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline

**Book Share:** Join a friendly group to chat about what books everyone is reading.

3rd Wednesday of the month March 17th and April 21st @ 6PM via Zoom

**Friday Morning Book Club:** Join Karen for a lively discussion group! Fridays @ 10:30 AM:

March 26th: *A Gathering of Old Men* by Ernest Gaines

**Great Decisions:** Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The topics will be discussed via Zoom; a valid email address is required to register and attend.

New participants are always welcome. If interested contact Tina McCusker  
[tmccusker@minlib.net](mailto:tmccusker@minlib.net).

March 11: Persian Gulf Security Issues

April 8: Brexit and the European Union

May 6: The Coldest War: Toward a Return to Great Power Competition in the Arctic?

#### WESTWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY- A Legacy of Colonialism via Literature from Those in Exile

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 @ 7:30 PM via Zoom

The Westwood Historical Society – in collaboration with the Westwood Public Library – will be hosting Dr. Nancy Milner Kelly as our speaker. During this program, Nancy will provide a brief overview of colonialism as background. She will then talk about the works of novelists and a poet who have

relocated from Asia and Latin America as well as Africa and Caribbean countries. Images and themes of geographical, cultural, emotional, and linguistic exile are prevalent in this literature. However, these writers also talk about the solace they seek (and receive) in writing, with writing becoming a new kind of “homeland” for them. Frequently, they write in the language of their new country, partly to ensure a wider audience. Nancy will also use paintings, photos, and quotes from some of these post-colonial novels and poems to illustrate how these themes play out in the written word.

### **Islington Branch Knitters**

Claire Connors recently received another note of thanks from the Home for Little Wanderers thanking the Islington Branch Knitters for contributing mittens, hats and scarves. This was the second delivery of hand-knit items that Claire delivered to the Pine Street residents this winter.