



**Westwood Public Library Update**  
**Lizzy McGovern, Library Director**  
**October 20th, 2021**

**Library Services and Programs**

We have had a busy fall with many popular programs both in person and online. Suzie held an in-person craft night blending her love of plants and art with a Botanical Rubbings project. The library collaborated with the Historical Society and presented via Zoom an inside look at the Fairbanks House of Dedham presented by Stuart Christie. The gallery is hosting the Dedham Arts Association artwork for the month of October and it is a beautiful display that brightens up the entire space.

The kids/teens department has been extremely busy with the return to school. We have a new flock of middle school students visit the library most afternoons but especially Wednesdays and Fridays. Felicia collaborated with Youth and Family Services once again this year to provide a volunteer opportunity for the Teen Scene Mentors. We now have regular mentors (Juniors and Seniors) help out on early release Wednesdays and Fridays to interact with the middle school students. Felicia also facilitated a College prep workshop on the Common app which was one of our first hybrid programs offered both on zoom and in person. Great Decisions, another regular program run by Tina McCusker, is also offered in person and on zoom with our new Owl camera.

Children's is busy with storytimes outside and book clubs for every age (also with a hybrid option). The next session of storytimes that begin in November will be held indoors.

The library attended Westwood Day and had many visitors of all ages stop by for library cards, information on programs, a chance to spin the prize wheel and win a free book (provided by the FOL). It was another successful Westwood Day in the books!

**Wentworth Hall / Islington Branch Library Update:**

Some items such as bookcarts and technology pieces have arrived for the branch but we are still waiting for shelving and furniture. We hope to get an update on shipping that will give us a clearer picture for the opening date. In the meantime, wifi is being installed along with a few other punch list items.

After assessing the current budget year with the staffing changes since July 1st we have found some savings that should cover the additional hours needed to open Monday-Thursday at the branch for the remainder of the fiscal year. We can then assess the use and needs of the branch for future planning.

**New Islington Branch Hours Proposed: Branch would be open total of 34 hours**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
10-6	10-6	10-8	10-6	
8 hours	8 hours	10 hours	8 hours	

### Staffing

To fulfill the additional hours for staffing at the branch, we will need to post another library assistant position along with the currently vacated Branch Library Assistant position (previously held by Caitlyn Moore). I will be working closely with Joan Courtney Murray to get these positions filled in the coming months.

### Strategic Plan

We are currently creating an Internal Strategy Team that will kick off November 1 and deliver a strategic plan by May 2021. Our Dept. Heads — and other staff — will be involved in creating the strategy which is important since they will ultimately own implementing it. I am excited to have them engaged throughout the process and help bring it to life.

Maureen and Mary have been very helpful developing our project work plan, offering great input and suggestions. They will continue to be involved both in shaping the strategy in their roles as Strategy Liaisons to the Board. At the November meeting, we'll be sharing more about the strategy project and how the trustees will be a part of it.

The next steps for the Board will be one on one discussions with Conni to share your institutional knowledge as we kick off this project - Conni is hoping to get these discussions scheduled between now and Thanksgiving and will send questions in advance.

### Poet Laureate Update

The library will move forward with the Poet Laureate program and be the entity that will be the facilitator and “home” of the Poet Laureate process. We will be submitting an overview of the process/project to the Select Board for review and approval. We first need to commit to a selection committee process.

Other towns have small committees of three to five representatives of stakeholders in the community-- generally, a language arts or English teacher, a librarian or library trustee, and a citizen with a demonstrated interest and track record in writing and literature. A Selection Committee should consist of 4-5 members. I propose for Westwood:

- Library representative: Trustees will appoint one member to the committee. This member could be a current trustee, former trustee, 21st century member, or staff member.
- School Department: under direction of superintendent Emily Parks, a member of the faculty (such as High School English department chair) or School committee would be appointed to the selection committee.
- Member of the Cultural Council and/or Historical Commission

Once the committee is established and brought together under the facilitation of the Library Director, they will meet to establish guidelines for the position and the application process. The guidelines for the position and application process have already been developed and reviewed by members of the town administration. The committee will then put out a call for applicants and will set up interviews.

If we can get this proposal on the Select Board agenda this Fall and it is approved then the Select Board can make an announcement of the new program and we can open the process up for applications in February for an April announcement of Westwood's first Poet Laureate (April is National Poetry Month).

### **Philbrick Prints**

Tricia London and Abby have been working on organizing, cataloging, and reviewing all the Philbrick prints the library currently has. Since we do not have special storage for the prints and because they are meant to be viewed by all, we would like to display them on select wall areas in the library where the prints can permanently live. Tricia reached out to two local places that do art restoration and framing and received quotes for the pieces that need attention before they can be displayed properly. The prices are from \$500-\$900.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director