



Westwood Public Library Update
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director
January 9, 2023

I returned to work on Tuesday January 3rd so I am slowly making the transition back into the fold of the library. I am planning on meeting with department heads and various committee members in the next few weeks to get up to speed. I thank the board for their grace and patience as I make this transition. I am very happy to be back with you all!

Library Services and Programs

Programming numbers have risen in the last year and continue to rise as patrons desire for in person events returns. Storytimes have waitlists and spots for Suzie's popular gardening and botanical programs are highly sought after. We have learned from these trends and feedback during the strategic planning that the community is happy with what we are doing and if anything wants more of what we are offering. Staff are excited to start the new year with fresh ideas for community engagement as we begin to put into action our strategic plan.

Mathew Radulski is finishing up the archival project by the end of this month. He will be giving us an overview of the collection and next steps in terms of preserving and accessibility. I should have more of an update from Abby Walsh once I settle back in.

Staffing Update

Corinne Coveney (part time reference librarian) has resigned as she has found her dream job working for library application Springshare company. We wish her the best of luck and are so thankful for all the great work she has done here in Westwood. We will be posting this position in the coming weeks.

Suzie Canale and Caroline Tighe, who frequently collaborate on programs together, were invited to present at the Massachusetts Library Association annual conference in May 2023 about their Living Library collection and corresponding programs. We are so delighted that their hard work and creativity are being recognized by the larger library community and will represent the excellence that Westwood has come to be known for.

Wentworth Hall / Islington Branch Library Update:

The winter Warm Knits giveaway has been a wonderful collaboration between the Islington Knitters and the library community. The knitters are delighted to see happy smiling faces of winners of hats, mittens, and scarves. Our numbers keep growing for this. The first week we had 25 people visit the branch to enter to win, the second week we were in the 40's and 75 the week after. Staff have been

working hard with creating new and exciting events and initiatives that highlight the branch as a popular destination in the community.

Poet Laureate Update:

Maria Ryan will update the board on the progress of the Poet Laureate committee after the December 13th meeting.

Budget

The FY24 budget was submitted to the Finance Department at the end of November. The select board will be reviewing the budget in January before going to Fincomm in February.

We are in good shape in our FY23 budget.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director