



Westwood Public Library Update
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director
April 10, 2023

Library Services and Programs

On April 6th Abby Walsh submitted our proposal for the LSTA Archives Arrangement grant worth \$20,000. I am so pleased with her hard work with this grant and am proud of the achievement no matter the outcome. Creating access to our “Community Memory” Collection AKA Local History is one of our Strategic Initiatives. Preserving the past and capturing the present for future generations is growing increasingly important to the community.

The Adult Services team are continuously improving space on the second floor making room to highlight collections and make more room for quiet reading and study. Most recently we have shifted the newspapers next to the magazines to make more space for quiet reading.

The Children’s Department has expanded its Library of Things collection to include a more robust array of Learning Kits. Coming soon, we will have a Social Emotional Learning Collection that helps kids learn about emotions, making friends, coping skills, and more.

In collaboration with Westwood Youth and Family Services, the library has had 17 high school students, between 10th and 12th grade, volunteer on Fridays and Early Release Days throughout the school year to mentor middle schoolers. These high school students help with homework, facilitate games and are just an overall positive presence to the middle schoolers who spend time at the library. We have had the Mentor Program for a few years now but was revitalized this year with the teamwork from Teen Services Librarian Felicia O’Keefe and YFS Counselor Adina Swan.

Wentworth Hall / Islington Branch Library:

Claire and her team “Branch Reads” social media posts are very popular! They started tagging authors in the posts and 17 authors responded/commented on Facebook and 23 on Instagram. One author reached out and offered to do a zoom program with the community! It has been a great way to connect with authors, especially for potential program events.

Tech Help at the branch on Tuesday/Thursday continues to grow in use and popularity each month.

Facilities Update

- As part of the sound dampening project, we will be having glass doors installed in the entrance to the teen room. The next step will be getting sound baffling panels installed to mitigate the echo effect of the room.

- Jimmy has also replaced and upgraded the TV in the Children's storytime room and replaced the tv on wheels in the community room. The new TV in the community room is especially important for Fincom and Select Board meetings.

Staffing Update

It is my pleasure to announce that Sean O'Donnell has joined the Library as our new Reference/Adult Services Librarian. We are excited to have Sean as a member of our team and encourage you to stop by the Main Library to meet Sean and wish him well. We are still seeking on-call substitute library assistants.

I plan on having the annual Staff Development Day this Spring. I am still trying to nail down a date but I am thinking of Friday May 5th and would like to close for the entire day so we can get a full day of training. Staff has requested that we have training on security and de-escalation measures.

Budget

Fincom public meeting was held March 14 and 28th. There were no questions specifically regarding Library operation or capital funding requests for FY24.

FY23 budget: we are nearing the end of our fiscal year and have had to be very careful to measure out our spending through June. As we head towards June, we are keeping a careful eye on our salary line as we have to cover upcoming vacations and extra hours for outreach visits in June.

Strategic Plan: Action Items 2023

Please review the attached document that features the monthly work towards goals.

A few highlights to note:

- Have engaged a consultant who works on designing and building Bookmobiles. Michael Swendrowski of *Vehicle Success LLC* comes greatly recommended from Natick and has worked across all 50 states. He met with Jim McCarthy, Danielle Sutton, and Maureen Von Euw for our first discovery meeting. We talked about the goals of the Bookmobile and he will be designing a floor plan and sending it next week.
- I met with Jim McCarthy and Melinda Garfield to discuss the collaboration for the podcast studio/Creative Suite in the library for public use.
- Library of Things: We have added a GoPro Hero camera, Garmin GPS for hiking, and a Outdoor Movie projector kit to our collection.

Poet Laureate Update:

Lynne and I are in frequent contact as she takes on the position of Westwood's Poet Laureate. We created a page on our website which you can [view here](#). This page lists her bio, upcoming events, and her Poem of the Month. Lynne will be hosting an Open Mic Poetry Reading on April 25th at the library for her Poetry Writing group and will be the guest speaker at the upcoming Friends of the Library annual meeting on May 18th. As the Poet Laureate, Lynne has been asked to write an original poem in honor of Memorial Day. She will be in attendance to read her poem as part of her duties.

We are still seeking candidates for the Youth Poet Laureate position. More information is available on both the town and library website.

21st Century Fund Update:

We are so delighted to have the Library tote bags available for sale at both the main and branch libraries. The bags mark a celebration of 10 years in the main library. The bags are being sold for \$10 a piece and all proceeds go towards supporting the 21st Century Fund. So far we have sold 17 total bags (13 from main and 4 from branch) since last week. Please see attached flyers highlighting the bag and the fund.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director