



Westwood Public Library Update
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director
June 12, 2023

The Library has been extremely busy in May and June. Summer Reading is in full swing for all ages. The Children's librarians are making their annual trek to all 5 elementary schools to visit library classes to talk about the summer reading program and book-talk our favorite books of the year. Once again, Westwood Media created a video explaining the program to the community. You can view it [here](#)! For all detailed information about summer reading for preschool, kids, teens, and adults, you can find it on our [libguide here](#). In addition to reading for tickets to prize baskets, every time a patron visits the library (main or branch) they can be entered into a weekly drawing for prize! Patrons can participate in all aspects of Summer Reading at both/either the Main or Branch locations.



Wentworth Hall / Islington Branch Library:

The Living Library program on Window Box Container gardening was held in May at the Islington Branch and was as popular as ever. Another Book Tasting program is scheduled for June 27th at Neroli Restaurant. Participants will try appetizers and learn about various book titles from different "menus" provided by library staff. Due to popularity for this program there will be a lottery for choosing participants; right now there are 40 registered for the lottery! The Friends of the Library have generously funded this and other popular programs.

The second annual Plant Swap was held in the front of the Branch on Wednesday June 7th. Some of the same participants who came last year came again this year and brought different plants and even clippings from smaller plants that will grow into a new plant! Suzie and Caroline did a wonderful job planning this event and being the go-to for "plant advisory".

Staffing Update

There are big (very good) changes on the way for the library. Abby Walsh has resigned from Head of Adult Services to take a position working at Boston College. We are very happy for Abby on this new adventure for her! We have now posted the vacant Head of Adult Services position.

In addition, after thoughtful consideration, we have merged the Technical Services and Circulation Departments together under the umbrella of **Circulation and Materials Services** of which Karen Gallagher will be the Department Head.

We have also created a new position of *Senior Library Assistant* that will oversee the acquisitions portion of the Materials/circulation department, specifically the invoicing and processing/cataloging of materials under the direction of Karen as Department Head. All benefitted Library Assistants will all be trained to catalog and process materials under the direction of the Senior Library Assistant; library assistants and the senior library assistant will both report to Karen as Department Head.

With those changes in place, we now have the opportunity to post an Assistant Director/Head of Technology and Innovation position (formerly Head of Technical Services). All new positions have been approved by the Personnel Board at their May meeting. I am so excited for the library as we continue to grow and change for the better!

Both positions are currently posted and we plan on beginning to bring candidates in later in the month.

Strategy update:

We continue to meet our actionable goals for year one of the strategy (please review attached action update for June). Between author talks, additional collections, new cozy seating and outdoor spaces, and staffing restructuring, we are in a good place to continue to grow. One action item I would like to bring to the board attention for the September meeting is for the library to officially go Fine Free as many other Minuteman libraries have done in the last three years. I plan on bringing facts, figures, and articles to support this measure at the September meeting but wanted to bring it up now so that the board is prepared in advance to think about this potential change in policy.

Policy Review

As we continue to review the Art/Exhibit Policy, I have also attached the current Meeting Room Policy. Please familiarize yourself with this policy as I plan on presenting updated changes at the September 2023 Board meeting. Next up, I would like to review/update the Acceptable Behavior Policy and create a Programming Policy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lizzy McGovern, Library Director