



## Board of Library Trustees

### Annual Town Report for Fiscal Year 2016

The Seekonk Public Library provides high quality library service from its facility at 410 Newman Avenue. Each year the library takes up the challenge to respond to the increasing demand for service by Seekonk residents. Through careful management and creative application of public and private resources, the library met and in many cases exceeded, the expectations of its users in fiscal year 2016.

This task has become increasingly difficult, however, as the library struggles to offer services from a deteriorating, building with insufficient space. Library staff members are working closely with the Library Facilities Study Committee to develop a feasible plan to modernize a building constructed in 1978. The facilities study is the first step in a multi-year process that we hope will result in the Town obtaining millions of dollars in Library Construction Grant funds from the state to help construct this new facility.

The library improved access into the building last fiscal year by replacing the ill-fitting entry doors with energy efficient, automatic doors. The library installed the doors using a combination of state grants and local funds. Although the town will need to do much more to comply with current codes regarding accessibility, the new doors are a major step forward to make the library easier to use for everyone.

#### One of the MOST USED of our TOWN SERVICES

##### Seekonk Public Library in FY 2016

- Total hours open: 2,967
- Total visits: 115,360
- People using cards: 5,514
- New users getting cards: 815
- Items borrowed: 275,896
- Reference questions: 12,471
- Times the library meeting room was used by other groups: 547
- Total attendance at children & family programs: 8,767
- Total attendance at adult & teen programs: 1,535

The Seekonk Meadows, the passive recreation area adjacent to the library, began its fifth full year of operation. Thousands of people visited the Seekonk Meadows in fiscal year 2016 to walk its pathways, appreciate nature or to attend the concerts and other events produced by the library. The completion of the Seekonk Veterans Memorial in May enhances further the role of the site



as a community center. The Seekonk Meadows Management Committee continues to oversee the use and on-going development of the Meadows. The Board of Trustees thanks them for their efforts.

The Seekonk Public Library is one of the few public libraries to have a special area dedicated to promoting innovative and creative uses of new technology. The *Innovation Center* has a variety of high tech tools, including a 3-D printer and higher end workstations. The Innovation Center supports many of the S.T.E.M (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs produced by the library.

Seekonk Public Library remains one of the most highly used town services. The library was open a total of 2,967 hours last fiscal year. With few exceptions, the library was able to maintain its six day, sixty-hour a week schedule. People visited the library 115,360 times last fiscal year, which averages to 2,218 people per week. 5,514 individuals used their Seekonk library cards in fiscal year 2016. The library also issued 815 new library cards last year, which was an increase of nine percent over the previous year.

The library collected a total of \$17,142 in late fees and collected \$13,215 in other various fees. These revenues are used either to support on-going services such as the public printers and copier or is deposited into the General Fund of the town.

The primary attraction of the library is its diverse and interesting collection of materials. The library offers users a choice from among 92,870 items. This includes materials in the physical collection as well as electronic materials available on-line. Books and other printed materials still account for approximately two thirds of the physical collection. Electronic resources (CDs, DVDs, electronic books) account for

the remaining third. In 2016, the library continued to build its collection of Blu-Ray video discs and electronic games. The library also increased the availability of downloadable electronic books, audio-books, magazines and musical recordings through services such as OverDrive, Axis 360, Flipster and Freegal. These electronic resources are part of an overall effort to develop a collection reflective of the diverse needs and interests of Seekonk residents.



S.T.E.M Program Rocket Launch

One indication of how successful these efforts have been is that Seekonk Public Library consistently has one of the highest per capita lending rates in the state. The library circulated 275,896 items last fiscal year. Children's materials accounted for approximately thirty percent of this total. This total includes over ten thousand electronic items that people downloaded either at the library or from home.

Many Seekonk residents took advantage of the library's membership in the statewide library network to borrow over thirty-eight thousand items from other libraries. The availability of these other items is a major benefit of participation in the Massachusetts Library Network. Seekonk Public Library also lent almost thirty-six thousand items to other libraries. The Massachusetts library grant formula compensates local libraries for these loans to users in other communities. Last year, the Town of Seekonk received over twenty-four thousand dollars in state aid.

The many programs and classes offered by the library were another major reason that people visited last fiscal year. The library offered eighty-eight adult and teen programs. These programs and classes had a combined total attendance of 1,535. The library also offered three hundred and ninety-seven programs for children and families. These programs had a total attendance of 8,767. About four hundred children participated in the Summer Reading Program. This popular program helps to keep students reading during the summer months. Various groups and organizations used the library's main meeting room 547 times last year. All of these programs support the library's larger mission to promote life-

long learning, childhood literacy, personal health and wellbeing, and informed public discourse.

The library has a total staff of twenty people. Eight are full-time employees and six of these are professional librarians. Marge Bradley, the Supervisor of Customer Services retired in June after twenty-five years of service. Mary Ellen Siniak, the Senior Librarian in Youth Services also retired after twenty years of service. On behalf of the thousands of users they served, the trustees thank them for their dedicated service.

All of the library staff members take great pride in the personal services they provide. Last year, the library staff members provided reference assistance and individual instruction to users of all ages a total of 12,471 times. Many of these questions involved using the wide variety of electronic resources available through the library. The staff also devotes a great deal of time to assisting the people who connect their personal devices

to the free Wi-Fi service at the library as well as the users of the library's thirty-two public computers. Approximately 5,400 personal devices logged on the library's wireless network last year. All of this assistance and instruction is part of a larger effort to help people become knowledgeable users and consumers of new information technology.

The library could not be the popular and effective service it is without the support of the community. The library is fortunate to have the support of many individual volunteers. Forty-six volunteers worked at the library last year and they contributed 3,248 hours of service. Two non-profit organizations, the *Friends of*

### **FY 2016 Report on the Smart Memorial Trust**

In October 1985, Town Meeting established the Smart Memorial Trust in the Town By-laws. The purpose of the trust is "to support the goals of the Seekonk Public Library to provide the widest possible range of informational, educational, and recreational services to all individuals and groups in the community". The members of the Board of Library Trustees serve as trustees for the Smart Memorial Trust. The Town holds and manages the trust funds. The balance of the Smart Memorial Trust as of June 30, 2016 was \$38,818.66. The library did not expend any money from the trust in fiscal year 2016. The total income of the trust last year was \$639.28.

*the Seekonk Public Library* and the *Seekonk Library Trust*, provide additional support to the library. Money raised by the Friends supplements the basic services paid for with tax dollars. These popular additional services include the museum passes, family night programs, and the summer concert series. In fiscal year 2016, the Friends of the Library donated approximately \$19,000 for these and other services. The Seekonk Library Trust exists to solicit and accept donations from private sources for library purposes. The focus of the Library Trust is on addressing long-term needs of the library. Both organizations are important parts of the public and private partnership that provides quality library service to the people of Seekonk. The Board of Trustees wishes to thank both organizations on behalf of all library users for their help in making last fiscal year a truly exceptional year.



Bill Harley Concert on the Meadows

In conclusion, a critical ingredient to the library's success is hearing from you about the job we are doing. We welcome your comments, complaints, and recommendations. For your convenience, the library has setup an email account, [trustees@seekonkpl.org](mailto:trustees@seekonkpl.org) for you to contact the Board of Library Trustees.

Respectfully Submitted,

**BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

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