



Seekonk Public Library

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017

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 2017.

Seekonk Public Library remains one of the most highly used town services. The library was open a total of 2,948 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 95,299 times last fiscal year, which averages to about 1,833 people per week. Over four thousand individuals used their Seekonk library cards in fiscal year 2017. The library also issued 547 new library cards last year.

The library continues to struggle to offer services from a deteriorating, building with insufficient space. The library staff and Board of Trustees have worked closely with the Library Facilities Study Committee to develop a workable and affordable building design. At the November 2016 Town Meeting, residents voted to accept the recommended design and to authorize the Town to apply for a library construction grant. The

grant was submitted by the Town of Seekonk to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) in January 2017. In July, the MBLC made a tentative award of 7.3 million dollars to pay for about 48% of the construction costs. You

One of the MOST USED of our Town Services

Seekonk Public Library in FY 2017

- Total hours open: 2,948
- Total visits: 95,299
- People using cards: 4,074
- New users getting cards: 547
- Items borrowed: 256,253
- Reference questions: 10,748
- Times the library meeting room was used by other groups: 542
- Total attendance at children & family programs: 5,033
- Total attendance at adult & teen programs: 1,637

can find more information about the library building project on the library website (www.seekonkpl.org). The Board of Library Trustees wishes to thank the members of the Library Facility Study Committee who have worked diligently on this project since January 2014.

Seekonk Meadows, the passive recreation area adjacent to the library, began its sixth full year of operation in 2017. Thousands of people visited the Seekonk Meadows 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 further enhances the role of the site as a community center.

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.

The library collected a total of \$14,420 in late fees and collected \$12,753 in other various fees. These revenues are used either to support on-going services such as the public printers and copier or are deposited into the General Fund of the town.



Thanks to funding from The Friends of the Seekonk Public Library and Sturdy Memorial Hospital & The Rehoboth/Seekonk Medical Center the library produced its Outdoor Summer Concert series featuring Bill Harley, Davis Bates & Roger Tincknell, Tony Funches of The Platters, and the Jesse Liam Band.

The primary attraction of the library is its diverse and interesting collection of materials. The library offers users a choice from among 175,206 items. This includes materials in the physical collection and over 77,000 electronic items that are available online to Seekonk Library users. 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 2017 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.

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 256,253 items last fiscal year. Children's materials accounted for approximately thirty percent of this total. This total includes over ten thousand electronic

Smart Memorial Library Trust Report for Fiscal Year 2017

Town Meeting approved a bylaw in October 1985 that established the Smart Memorial Trust. The initial assessts of the trust were those of the Smart Memorial Library, which had been one of the principal public libraries serving the Town of Seekonk prior to the construction of the current library building on Newman Avenue in 1978.

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 also serve as the trustees for the Smart Memorial Trust., and the enabling bylaw requires them to report annually to the Town on the status of the Trust. The Town holds and manages the Trust funds.

The balance of the Smart Memorial Trust as of June 30, 2017 was \$39,544.47. The library did not expend any money from the Trust in fiscal year 2017. The total income of the Trust last year was \$735.81.

items that people downloaded either at the library or from home.

Many users of the library took advantage of its membership in the statewide library network to borrow over thirty-nine thousand items from other libraries. The availability of these



One of the eighty-eight adult programs offered at the library. People gathered to hear Jeff Snow speak about and perform Celtic Music in 2017.

other items is a major benefit of participation in the Massachusetts Library Network. Seekonk Public Library also lent over thirty-two 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 1,637.

The library highlighted local resources with programs on Historic Homes of Seekonk, in partnership with the Seekonk Historical Commission, a Seekonk Authors Panel discussion, and participation in the opening of the Runnins River Trails. Library programs encouraged community health with programs on Snowshoeing, National Walking Day, and Memory Screening.

The library also offered three hundred and ninety-seven programs for children and families. These programs had a total attendance of 5,033. About four hundred children participated in the Summer Reading Program. This popular program helps to keep students reading during the summer months. Last year the library initiated a major outreach effort to teenagers. The library offered twenty-two programs for young adults.

Various groups and organizations used the library's main meeting room 542 times last year. All of these programs support the library's larger mission to



The heavily used “teen area”. The library increased its outreach to students at Seekon’s middle and high schools.

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. Last fiscal year, the library initiated staff restructuring. Some supervisory positions were left unfilled and two new positions were created.

These changes have

improved public service, increased productivity and reduced overall personnel costs.

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 10,748 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, which the library also upgraded to increase the speed of this services. Approximately 5,400 personal devices logged on to the library’s wireless network last year. The public also initiated over nine thousand sessions on the library’s thirty-two public computers. All of this assistance and instruction is part of a larger



Young users of the self-checkout stations.

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 3,360 hours of service. Two non-profit organizations, the *Friends of 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 2017, the Friends of the Library donated approximately \$18,000 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.

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 set up an email account, trustees@seekonkpl.org for you to contact the Board of Library Trustees.

Respectfully Submitted,

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

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