

## Seekonk Public Library FY21 Annual Report

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Seekonk Public Library is to enrich lives by ensuring that every member of the community has access to a vast array of ideas and information.

### Vision Statement

The Library enriches lives, broadens horizons, and strengthens community.

### Building

The library continues to operate from our location at 410 Newman Avenue. The current library building was constructed in 1978. The building infrastructure is facing costly repairs. The HVAC system is at end of life. The public rest rooms are also original, appear run down, and emit odors despite daily cleaning. The original carpet still remains in the main part of the building. The windows are not energy efficient and the wood siding is failing. Due to siding failure and building settling, the windows and building are no longer weather tight.

Recognizing the need for repairs, as well as inadequate space for programs and services desired by the community, in 2017 library administration applied to the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program as administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The library was placed on the waiting list for a provisional \$7.3 grant award. The library is currently 4<sup>th</sup> on the waitlist and anticipates receiving funding in FY23. The Board of Library Trustees is working with an ad hoc coalition of non-profit organizations, private citizens, and other stakeholders to coordinate fund-raising and public support for the project.

### FY 21 Snapshot

Total Items Lent: 171,256  
Total Hours Open: 2382  
Total Visits to the Library: 31,908  
Total Curbside Pickups: 3067  
New Library cards issued: 260  
Total Physical Items Added to the Collection: 6986  
Total Reference Questions Asked: 8527  
Total Meeting Room Use: 15  
Total Attendance at Youth Programs: 1739  
Total Attendance at Adult & Teen Programs: 1068

### Seekonk Meadows

The Seekonk Meadows is a local jewel and a well-used resource in the community. Many dedicated citizens worked to transform this space from landfill to passive recreation area, resulting in the opening of the Meadows to the public in 2012. The Meadows is a 9-acre site comprised of walking trails, amphitheater, and native plants and wildlife, and is adjacent to the 60-acre Gammino Pond Conservation Area.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Meadows served as a much-needed open-air community space in which residents could safely practice social distancing while enjoying the physical and mental health benefits that fresh air and nature provide.

This past year, the library used the Meadows for a variety of outdoor programming such as our Historical Romance/Historical Fiction Book Discussion group, Fall StoryWalk, a musical revue, and various library sponsored craft programs. The Meadows was also host to our local knitting group and the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual "Clean-up the Meadows" event coordinated by Seekonk High School students.

## Events

The library provides high quality programming for the intellectual, educational, and recreational enjoyment of the community. This year, the library played a vital role in the community by offering a variety of virtual and in-person programming to accommodate various user needs during the pandemic. Additionally, we created "Take & Make" kits for children, teens, and adults when in-person programming was not possible.

Event Highlights included:

### Adults –

Acoustic Pop Favorites Concert	Pastel Painting	Media Savvy: Protect Yourself
Some Enchanted Evening	Beginners Chinese Calligraphy	Satisfying Your Plant Lust
Revue		
Improv Workshop	DNA Basic: Which Test & Why?	Lessons from Tiny House Living
Suicide Awareness	Kitchen DIY Series	Star Wars Trivia Night
State of Birds/Backyard Birding	Backyard Chickens 101	Memory Masterclass
Ukulele Show	Ask A Muslim Anything	Shred Day!
Grow w/ Google Digital Skills Series	Holiday History in Christmas City	Fighting Back: New England Underdogs w/Ted Reinstein

### Teens –

Teen Escape Room	Teen Cooking Class	Upcycling
Teen Book Club	Virtual Dungeons & Dragons	Teen Sewing
Teen Crafts (various crafts)	Ant-Stress Program	Teen Advisory Board

### Children Birth to age 11 –

Made by Me Cooking School	Make Your Own Video	LEGO Master Builders
Halloween Cartooning	Dog Man Bingo	Flashlight Readers
Fall Storywalk	Jingle Babies/Jingle Kids	Learn to Hand Sew
	Storytimes	
Minecraft Club	Kids MAKE Series	Building Bridges with Story
Author Visit from the author of Ballpark Mysteries		

### General Audience –

Piecing It Together: A Community Art Project	All Ages Halloween Trivia
Annual Nature Photo Contest	Community Circle Project

## **Outreach & Collaboration**

The library is an active participant in the community, and always willing to collaborate with other organizations and municipal departments for the benefit of the community.

Highlights included:

- Children's Book Week – Town personnel filmed themselves reading picture books; these videos were then shared with the community via YouTube.
- Pet Blankets for Seekonk Animal Shelter
- Seekonk Public Schools Virtual Classroom Visits

Our partners included:

- Angel's Care Closet
- Friends of the Seekonk Public Library
- Seekonk Animal Shelter
- Seekonk Conservation Department
- Seekonk Cultural Council
- Seekonk Fire Department
- Seekonk Police Department
- Seekonk Public Schools
- Seekonk Health Department
- Seekonk Human Services
- Seekonk Land Trust
- Seekonk Library Trust
- Seekonk Public Safety Communications
- Seekonk Recycling Committee
- TV9

## **COVID-19**

After closing due to the pandemic in March 2020, the library reopened its' doors to the public on July 7, 2020. We continued to serve the public both in-person and virtually. We continued curbside services instituted in FY20, offered outdoor programming when possible, and presented programs virtually through video conferencing software. When COVID positivity rates rose in the community, we again closed our doors to the public on December 22, 2020; however, staff continued to work in the building and provided services by phone, email, social media, and curbside service. The library fully reopened to the public on March 1, 2021.

## **Volunteers**

The library appreciates the efforts of the many volunteers who contribute to our success. Sadly, this year we were not able to support a volunteer program and maintain social distancing. The Friends of the Library and Seekonk Library Trust continue to support the library through fundraising. In FY21, the Friends of the Library helped to sponsor public programming, provide outdoor signage, and purchased outdoor furniture which would allow the library to present some programs outdoors – a necessity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds contributed by the Friends of the Library supplement the services provided through our annual Town Appropriation. We look forward to welcoming our volunteers back into the library in FY22.

## **Technology**

The library continues to enhance its reputation as a leader in innovative library service. Our popular mobile hotspot program provided a valuable lifeline to many during the COVID 19 pandemic. Although our RFID implementation plan was curtailed by the pandemic in FY20, in FY21 we were able to complete the installation of a third self-checkout station in our Children's Room. By following a robust technology maintenance plan, we ensure that our patrons receive access to high quality services and technology training.

## **Collections**

The library maintains a collection of 80,458 physical items, including books, audiobooks, music cd's, videos, and videogames, and provides access to a digital collection of over 61,000 items. Through the library's membership in the SAILS library network, Seekonk residents have reciprocal borrowing privileges in over 40 communities within Southeastern Massachusetts. In FY21, Seekonk residents borrowed 34,973 items from these libraries.

The library also offers interlibrary loan services which allow patrons access to other library collections across the Commonwealth and the country.

The library's electronic resource collections allow patrons to access information and recreational materials from the comfort of their home.

In FY21, electronic and streaming collections included:

- Ancestry.com (in-library use only)
- BrainHQ
- Consumer Reports
- Creativebug
- Hoopla (eBooks, Audiobooks, movies)
- Kanopy (movies and documentaries)
- LinkedInLearning (formerly Lynda.com)
- Mango Languages
- Morningstar Reports
- Tumblebooks – Online books for Kids

## **Library of Things and other services**

In addition to books, videos, and music cd's, the library also offered a variety on non-traditional items for checkout. These items included:

- (9) Mobile Hotspots
- (7) Chromebooks
- (10) Cameras
- (1) Electricity Usage Meter
- (5) Ukuleles

Additionally, the library provides notary services for the public during most business hours. In FY21, there were 232 notary public transactions at the library.

### **Friends of the Library**

The Friends of the Seekonk Public Library are a volunteer, non-profit group devoted to enhancing the quality of the library. Through modest annual dues and on-going fundraising efforts, the Friends provide financial assistance and personal enthusiasm for the goals of the Seekonk Library. In FY21, the Friends of the Library provided \$7755.00 in funding.

### **Seekonk Library Trust**

The Seekonk Library Trust is a non-profit organization that welcomes gifts from individuals, families, businesses, and other non-profit organizations to ensure that the Seekonk Public Library is an enduring foundation of our community life.

### **Smart Memorial Trust**

In October 1985, Town Meeting approved a bylaw that established the Smart Memorial Trust. The initial assets of the Trust were those of the Smart Memorial Library; this library served the Town prior to the construction of the library at 310 Newman Avenue.

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 in the community". The members of the Board of Library Trustees also serve as Trustees for the Smart Memorial Trust. The Town Treasurer holds and manages these trust funds. The enabling bylaw requires the Board of Library Trustees to report annually on the status of the Trust to the Town. Accordingly, the Library Trustees wish to report that as of June 30, 2021, the Smart Memorial Trust fund balance was \$42,529.25. The library did not expend any money from the Trust in FY21. The Trust earned a total of \$1,251.54 in FY21.

### **Board of Library Trustees**

The Board of Library Trustees is an elected body selected by the registered voters of Seekonk. The duties of the Board are defined by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 78, sections 10-13, and include the custody and management of the library, approval of the library budget, and setting of library policies.

In FY21, the library appropriation from the Town was \$1,038,928.00. That figure was augmented to \$1,069,858.00 to cover a contractual benefits package payout. Overall, 93.42% of the total budget was expended.

We welcome input from the community. Please contact us at [trustees@seekonkpl.org](mailto:trustees@seekonkpl.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Durkay, Chairperson  
Sharon Connors, Vice-Chairperson  
Alyssa Richard, Secretary  
Ann Caldwell  
Catherine Capello  
Cynthia Corbett  
Fred Slemmon

