

## Seekonk Public Library FY22 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 is located 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 envelope 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. At the close of FY22, the library was 4<sup>th</sup> on the waitlist and anticipates receiving funding in July 2022. 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 22 Snapshot

Total Items Lent: 206,814  
Total Hours Open: 2716  
Total Visits to the Library: 48,235  
Total Curbside Pickups: 1558  
New Library cards issued: 632  
Number of registered users: 11,841  
Total Physical Items Added to the Collection: 6532  
Total Reference Questions Asked: 8324  
Total Meeting Room Use: 280  
Total Virtual Programs: 96  
Total Attendance at Youth Programs: 4289  
Total Attendance at Adult & Teen Programs: 1823

### 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 Summer Storytime in the Meadows, Landscape Painting in the Meadows, Yoga in the Meadows, Summer Concert Series, and various nature programming. The Meadows was also host to our local knitting group and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Clean-up the Meadows" event coordinated by Seekonk High School students.

### Mushroom Walk Program– Patron Quote

*"What a great day! I was very satisfied with the presentation and learning something new!"*

## Events

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

Event Highlights included:

### Adults –

Paper Quilling Workshop	Digital Photography Series	Flower Pressing
Cooking & Gardening with Edible Flowers	Gammino Pond Wetlands Ecology Walk	All About Oklahoma: The Musical
Tech Help Hour Sessions	Wool Jewelry Workshop	Poetry by You Workshop
Herbal Salve Workshop	Spice Club Series	Square Foot Gardening
Mushroom Hunting Walk	Winter Reading Challenge	Basic Wilderness Survival Course
America Recycles: Craft Swap	Holiday Trivia and Craft	Honoring a Local Hero: Author Talk
Grow w/ Google Digital Skills Series	Quilt of Many Cultures Community Art Project	Mrs. Hamilton: A Live Theatrical Performance

### *Spice Club Program – Patron Quote*

*"I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed the spice club activity that you put together for library patrons. Why I did not join in from the start, I have no idea, but I was so happy with weeks 3 and 4. Thank you so much for your efforts."*

### *Sell Online with E-Commerce Tools Program – Patron Quote*

*"Excellent Presentation. The information acquired from this presentation will help me with my business."*

### Teens –

Kindness Rocks	Virtual Baking School	Tiny Art Show
Photo Book Making	Salty Circuits	Teen Japanese Cooking School
Teen Crafts (various crafts)	Pop-Up Art School	Teen Advisory Board

### *Teen Needle Felting Program – Patron Quote*

*"Here are my girl's foxes. These were really fun to watch take shape. So adorable! Love this summer reading challenge."*

### Children Birth to age 11 –

Summer Storytime in the Meadows	Read to Some Bunny	Family Singalong
Fiber Arts Class	Made by Me Cooking School	How to Bake A Universe
Project Chick: Hands-On Education & Demonstration of the lifecycle of Native Birds	Legos Spin & Build with Detective Keith Perry, Seekonk Police Department	How To Build A Website Bootcamp
Minecraft Club	Tea Rex Tea Party	Seekonk Fire Museum Storytime
Build a Model Rocket!	Storytime(s) at Osamequin Farm	Botanical Blueprints Class

### *Read to Some Bunny Program – Patron Quote*

*"Both of my children really enjoyed it, and it was nice to see my 6yo (who is a very hesitant reader) actually get excited about reading."*

### General Audience –

Summer Concert Series	All Ages Mini-Golf in the Meadows
Annual Nature Photo Contest	Drive In Halloween Movie Night
All Ages Trivia	Celebrate Seekonk Day w/the Cultural Council
No-Sew Pet Blanket Project	Operation Gratitude Halloween Candy Give Back

### *Mini-Golf in the Meadows Summer Reading Kickoff Event – Patron Quote*

*"Had such a great time! What a fantastic way to celebrate the last day of school with my family! The course was fun and just long enough... would absolutely do it again if offered. Also, having the fun things to do after the mini-golf was great too!"*

### 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:

- Pet Blankets for Seekonk Animal Shelter
- Read to the Animals at Seekonk Animal Shelter
- Storytime at the Seekonk Fire Museum
- Seekonk Public Schools Virtual Classroom Visits
- Legos Spin & Build with the Seekonk Police Department
- Summer Visits with Champions
- Celebrate Seekonk Day with the Seekonk Cultural Council
- Annual Nature Photography Contest sponsored by the Seekonk Land Trust

*No-Sew Pet Blankets Program – Patron Quote*

*"This was a great program that my son and I participated in together and what a wonderful way to show love to our community!!"*

Our partners included:

- Angel's Care Closet
- Aitken Elementary School PTO
- Boston Bruins/Cradles to Crayons
- East Providence Historical Society
- Friends of the Seekonk Public Library
- Martin Elementary School PTO
- Mass Audubon
- Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
- Newman YMCA
- Old Colony History Museum
- Operation Gratitude
- Osamequin Farm
- Seekonk Animal Shelter
- Seekonk Conservation Department
- Seekonk Cultural Council
- Seekonk Fire Department
- Seekonk Fire Museum
- Seekonk Police Department
- Seekonk Public Schools
- Seekonk Human Services
- Seekonk Land Trust
- Seekonk Lions Club
- Seekonk Library Trust
- Seekonk Recycling Committee
- TV9

*Hunt House Museum Tour – Patron Quote*

*"That you provided this event was wonderful; no issues at all there, an historic gem not 15 minutes from my house...As for you guys, you continue to rock with wonderful events, presentations, and classes I enjoy so much."*

**COVID-19**

The pandemic continued to affect library services in FY22. 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, the Town closed all municipal buildings from January 4 through February 12, 2022. During this time, staff continued to work in the building and provide services by phone, email, social media, and 1463 curbside service pickups. The library fully reopened to the public on February 14, 2022.

## **Volunteers**

The library appreciates the efforts of the many volunteers who contribute to our success. The Friends of the Library and Seekonk Library Trust continue to support the library through fundraising. We were pleased to welcome the Friends of the Library and their Lobby Book Sale back into the building in Spring 2022. The funds provided by the Friends of the Library helped to sponsor public programming, such as the popular "Project Chick" and summer concert series. The funds contributed by the Friends of the Library supplement the services provided through our annual Town Appropriation.

## **Technology**

The library continues to enhance its reputation as a leader in innovative library service. By following a robust technology maintenance plan, we ensure that our patrons receive access to high quality services and technology training.

This year, we were able to supplement our already popular mobile hotspot lending program with 20 additional hotspots received through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Public Library Mobile Hotspot Lending Program. This program was funded by the American Rescue Plan Act and the Institute of Museum and Library Services from July 2021 through September 2022.

*Patron Quote about the MBLC Hotspot Borrowing Program:*

*"Be sure elderly, low income people are aware of program...A really great program!!! Seekonk Library the best at all services."*

## **Collections**

The library maintains a collection of 77,323 physical items, including books, audiobooks, music cd's, videos, and videogames, and provides access to a digital collection of over 88,000 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 FY22, Seekonk cardholders borrowed 37,451 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 FY22, electronic and streaming collections included:

America's News  
Ancestry.com (in-library use only)  
BrainHQ  
Consumer Reports

Creativebug  
HeritageHub  
Hoopla (eBooks, Audiobooks, movies)  
Kanopy (movies and documentaries)  
Libby from OverDrive  
LinkedInLearning (formerly Lynda.com)  
Mango Languages  
Morningstar Reports  
Niche Academy  
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	
(1) Studfinder	
(5) Ukuleles	
(1) Electric Guitar and amplifier*	* <b>NEW IN FY22</b>
(1) Toppling Tower yard game*	* <b>NEW IN FY22</b>
(1) Cornhole yard game*	* <b>NEW IN FY22</b>
(1) Dash Robot*	* <b>NEW IN FY22</b>
(1) Green Screen Kit*	* <b>NEW IN FY22</b>
(1) Youth Microscope Kit*	* <b>NEW IN FY22</b>
(1) Youth Nature Backpack*	* <b>NEW IN FY22</b>
(1) Binoculars*	* <b>NEW IN FY22</b>

Additionally, the library provides notary services for the public during most business hours. In FY22, there were 427 notary public transactions at the library.

*Patron Quote after the "Introduction to Photography for Kids" program patron quote. This program provided cameras for participants and instruction on composition, color, and light:*

*"We are so lucky to have a library that provides such amazing programs. Thank you."*

### **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 FY22, the Friends of the Library provided \$9870.00 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 \$43,087.50. The library did not expend any money from the Trust in FY22. The Trust earned a total of \$558.25 in FY22.

### **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 FY22, the library appropriation from the Town was \$1,059,630.00. Overall, 92.8% 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, Trustee Chairperson  
Sharon Connors, Trustee Vice-Chairperson  
Alyssa Richard, Trustee Secretary  
Ann Caldwell, Trustee  
Catherine Capello, Trustee  
Cynthia Corbett, Trustee  
Fred Slemmon, Trustee

