

September 2024 Library Report for the Friends



Board of Library Trustees Report

At its June meeting, the Board approved \$30,000 in funding for museum passes and library programming in the upcoming fiscal year (July 2024-June 2025). This motion was made in lieu of monthly votes for financing requests. In addition, \$2,000 was approved for two picnic tables that were placed on the back lawn of the property. Life Trustee Mary Jo Murray submitted her letter of resignation effective June 28, 2024.

At its August meeting, the Board appointed Mary Anderson as a Life Trustee to fill Mary Jo Murray's seat. This created a vacancy among the Elected Trustee seats, which is expected to be filled at a joint meeting of the BoS and Board of Trustees on September 23rd. If interested, please contact the Director and Chair of the Board of Trustees and submit the Talent Bank Form on the Town website.

The Board also began early discussions about the FY26 budget and discussed the finalized Financial Plan for library facility improvements. The Financial Plan forecasts \$1.8 million in needed improvements for the existing building over the next 20 years, as well as an additional \$1.2 million to provide an elevator and stairwell and to add a fire suppression system.

Director's Report

The Director reached out to Heather Simpson, owner of Honeysuckle Roastery, regarding parking and traffic concerns for the Book and Bake Sale. Weekend mornings tend to be the roastery's busiest times. The Director is awaiting follow-up from UPD for guidance on the issue and to see whether a police detail is appropriate. At a minimum, additional signage will likely be needed to direct patrons to park in the Unibank and Cove parking lots and potentially Court Street.

Two new library pages were hired in August: Stella Roy and Lelia Sjogren. Both are Uxbridge High School students and former library volunteers. Lily, who was hired in 2021, is starting college this fall — her last day was in July. Along with Georgia, the Library now has three library pages.

The Library's ARIS report was submitted on August 16. The report tracking library services in FY24 shows an overall upward trend in circulation, program attendance, and number of cardholders (5,185 Uxbridge residents). Total collection use increased by 16%. E-audiobooks saw the largest percentage increase, a 25% year-to-year increase.

This year's summer reading program ended on August 15. Overall participation was lower than in 2023 — 59 children, 11 teens, and 52 adults. Collectively, participants logged a total of 157,484 minutes — nearly 70% of logged minutes were from adult readers. We suspect that the uncertainty surrounding the school budget and the lack of summer reading requirements may have contributed to lower participation. However, youth book circulation saw a 34% year-to-year increase and contributed to the strongest July for physical circulation that the Library has seen since 2019.

Representatives from the MBLC visited the library in July for our application review site visit. The construction reviewer was present, as well as Library Building Consultant Andrea

Bono-Bunker and Specialist Heather Backman from the MBLC. We expect to learn if our application has been approved in September or October.

Financing Requests

<u>Request:</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Total Cost:</u>
Museum pass renewal	Worcester Art Museum	\$250.00
<u>Reimbursements</u> 1. August programming materials	Sonya Campbell	\$29.91
Halloween - Trick or Treat Goody Bags (Craft included, 100 bags)	N/A (Friends Debit Card Purchase from Amazon)	Up to \$250.00
		Total: \$529.91