



Wareham Free Library Board of Library Trustees Annual Report July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

Trustees:

Chair - Melissa Dyer

Vice Chair - Aprilleigh Lauer

Secretary – unfilled position, minutes completed on rotating member basis

Member - Deanne Bonner

Member - Nancy Rice

Member - Joanne Robertson

Member - Mallory Callinan-resigned May 2021

Recommended applicant (6/30/2020) - Margit Price

The Wareham BoLT met virtually for the entire fiscal year via Zoom. The Board's main focus was to help support the Director and library staff during the pandemic to facilitate & ensure ongoing library access for Wareham residents and to assist with the maintenance of library certification status.

Two major goals were established. The first, to determine the changing demographics of Wareham. The second, to build a sound recruitment/onboarding/retention strategy for applicants and new Board of Library Trustee members.

The mapping of the town has been in conjunction with the assistance of the town clerk's office, the MA census database and Steven Miller, WFL Reference Librarian. The goal to identify unrepresented areas of the community for more thoughtful recruitment and to ensure that all areas have a voice advocating for their chosen library resources. A board matrix was utilized to better comprehend current trustee member's community connections, qualities, personal style and areas of expertise thus to best identify and rectify gaps requiring attention moving forward.

Additionally, the board's main advocacy initiative has been an effort to define the role the library plays in the community by building and maintaining open communication with town leaders, state representatives and Wareham residents to encourage their ongoing support of the library. This advocacy helps to encourage fund raising, active participation by town residents in library programs and resources and to provide a safe and creative haven for the diverse Wareham and surrounding community residents. A survey of current resident needs/desires for library services was begun with the intention of better understanding what the community feels the role of the library should be moving into the future. Surveys will be ongoing – short and intended to be produced and sent on a monthly basis.

The recruitment and onboarding procedures to include an introduction to both town requirements & MBLC requirements, as well as providing resources to assist new members in assuming the role of trustee (i.e. job description, bylaws, contact list for BoLT members w/bios, staff bios, MBLC resource links, etc.).

Throughout the year, BoLT members maintained lines of communication with town government to highlight the value of the Wareham Free Library to the community. Agendas and minutes have been posted to both the town and library websites to ensure transparency with the public domain.

Finally, the board chair joined town leadership in the new library director hiring process. We look forward to working with the new director to continue the work done since the library was recertified.