



HULL PUBLIC LIBRARY

9 Main Street • Hull, MA 02045 • 781-925-2295

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Hull:

Over the course of the past year, the Hull Public Library has seen many changes. In March, I started as the new Library Director, taking over for Daniel Johnson who had worked here for 34 years; in June, we opened our doors to the public for the first time since the COVID pandemic closed them in March 2020; and over the summer and into the fall, the Library went through a number of interior and exterior cosmetic changes. We had our fair share of ups and downs with leaking boilers, wildlife and poison ivy, a neglected collection, and some rusty old shelving, but the staff was more than willing to do it all—and handled it all with grace and humility. We are also fortunate to have wonderful and compassionate patrons that took all of the changes in stride.

9 Main Street is a beautiful building that needed some additional love and attention. The Department of Public Works jumped right in and helped clear lots of overgrown brush around the property and helped staff clear out lots of old items from the sheds and the attic. They also went above and beyond helping me install our window AC units at the start of the summer.

Through a generous donation from a patron and Hull resident, I was able to purchase and plant nine hydrangea bushes in front of the Library that will look beautiful for years to come. We had additional landscaping work done to define beds and add much needed mulch, and the exterior looks better than ever thanks to a fresh coat of paint on the front door and outdoor sign as well as new exterior lighting. Thank you to the Friends of the Hull Public Library for providing funding to take care of our much beloved Camperdown elm—rumor has it that it is the oldest tree in Hull!

When we were finally able to open the doors to the public, we saw an obvious increase in circulation of materials. Porch pick-up has been a much appreciated service offered to our patrons during the pandemic, but nothing beats coming in to browse the newest books on our shelves.

We checked out or lent 18,678 items from February to December. During the Spring when we were closed to the public and offering porch-pick up service, we averaged 1,200 items per month; once we opened the doors to our patrons in late June, that number rose to an average of 2,000 items per month. Items include Adult, YA/Teen and Children's books, DVDs, magazines, and audiobooks.

Inside the building, the staff painted the Children's room, disassembled and reconfigured all the shelving, and had new vinyl plank flooring installed. The room has a

freshness and brightness that was missing before and patrons have had nothing but good things to say about the improvements. The collection is easy to browse and new shelving for Easy Readers were purchased to help some of our littlest readers access the titles that appeal to them most.

Summer was busy in the Children's Room and out on the lawn with weekly storytimes and crafts, puppet shows and visiting animals. During a rainstorm, a live animal show moved indoors and the patrons sat among drop cloths and a room in disarray as we were in the middle of the renovation. It didn't stop anyone from enjoying the exotic animals that were visiting us in Hull.

As summer was winding down and the Children's Room project was complete, we focused our energy on the Adult Nonfiction collection on the second floor. We weeded, donated and discarded hundreds of books that hadn't circulated for years and then jumped into a cataloging project that would enable our patrons to have a more positive browsing experience. While this was happening, a new floor was installed, more walls were painted, a doorway was expanded and a new layout meant that we would eventually be able to offer some programming space in the Library as well as have a gallery wall to showcase local artists. All of these renovations and projects were possible because of generous donations made directly to the Library.

Like any good renovation project, delays kept arising and the project went on for longer than expected. That being said, we are more than confident that our patrons will appreciate the fresh space.

During all of this, staff ran around with paint buckets, tape measures, drills and hammers all while pulling holds, buying new books, organizing storytimes and helping patrons find books or movies, reserve a museum pass or print documents.

Our Museum Pass program, funded by the Friends, continues to be a popular service. Despite lots of museum closures and challenging protocols and booking requirements, every week several patrons have enjoyed discounted tickets to many museums in Boston including favorites like the Aquarium, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Children's Museum.

We added a lot of new books to the collection, expanded our eBook collection, added new magazines and started circulating wireless hotspots. The staff is excited to keep up this momentum as we keep evaluating what we have and what our patrons want and need, rethinking traditional library offerings, and coming up with items and services that benefit our community.

Hours of Operation

Monday and Thursday, 10am-7pm
Tuesday and Wednesday, 10am-5pm
Friday and Saturday, 10am-2pm

Library Staff

Ellen Kane
Anne Masland
Ann Selig
Cynthia Ryder
Doreen Wholey

Library Trustees

Mary Dunphy
Kathy Grant
Amy Hyde
Kevin Loechner
Celia Nolan
Gail Saitow

A very special thank you to the Library staff, the Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Hull Public Library, the Library Book Club, the Hull Garden Club, Alan Grossman, the Department of Public Works, the Building Department, and the Council on Aging—I could not have done any of this without all of you.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Costagliola
Library Director