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

The Board of Library Trustees herewith submits its annual report for the year ending December 31, 2017

Mission Statement

The Hull Public Library shall be a gathering place to foster the love of literature, cultural development, lifelong learning, and the appreciation of the arts and a sense of community. The library will also provide patrons with the resources necessary to make informed decisions, as well as being a forum for the free and open exchange of ideas in the interest of civic participation.

The Hull Public Library endorses *the Freedom to Read Statement, the Library Bill of Rights and the Library Bill of Rights for Children*, which together support the philosophy of free access to information to all. The above documents are on the library's website, www.hullpubliclibrary.org

2017 – 2018 Hours of Operation:

Monday and Thursday	10 AM – 8 PM
Tuesday and Wednesday	10 AM – 5 PM
Friday	2 PM -5 PM
Saturday	10 AM – 3 PM

New Library Website and Social Media

In November 2017, the Hull Public Library inaugurated a state of art website designed by Narrow Land of Provincetown. The new attractive library website allows the library user to get up to date information including hours of operation, events, history of the library and links to other organizations in Hull. The webpage has links to the OCLN catalog and Commonwealth Catalog which allows to library user to search library catalogs across the state. The newest feature on the library database is the addition of several databases covering a wide variety of subjects. Some of the databases are funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and are produced by the Gale Research Company. These databases cover subjects such as education, science and technology, literature, the environment, health, travel and history. The Hull Public Library is particularly proud of the databases it has funded. These include Ancestry.com, Hoopla (which library users to download movies and music) and Mango (which allows library users to learn languages on line). All you need is a valid Hull library card

to access these excellent resources. The Library also reactivated its Facebook page and added an Instagram account. Social media is another way library users can keep up with current activities.

Recent Library Improvements

The Hull Public Library has done extensive work to both the exterior and the interior in recent years. The entire building was reshingled and repainted. Extensive work was done to repair the gutters, downspouts, the fascia and soffit. The exterior of the building needed extensive restoration due to the fact that it occupies a wooden building in a maritime climate. Wherever possible the historical integrity of the building was preserved or restored. The Town of Hull has invested extensive resources into the exterior repairs of the library.

We have had a great many compliments from Hull residents and others on this work. The Charlotte Laven Student Center, the new circulation desk, the refurbishment of the first floor, the Children's Room and the exterior repairs have put a new face on the Hull Public Library. It is a twenty first century library in an historic nineteenth century building.

Overview of Library Services:

1. Over 30,000 holdings including books, large print books, audio books, DVDs, CDs, and periodicals.
2. Downloadable audio and electronic books.
3. Access to Town records such as Town Reports and Property Assessments.
4. Six public computer workstations with printers and Internet access.
5. Free wireless Internet access.
6. Children's Room and reading and study areas for both adults and children.

Museum passes and Special Programs – sponsored by the *Friends of the Hull Public Library* and the *Hull Cultural Council*. (See below)

7. Access to the Old Colony Library Network (see below).

Museum Passes contributed by the Friends of the Library offer deeply discounted admission to the following area attractions: The Children's Museum, The New England Aquarium, The Franklin Park & Stone Zoos, The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the JFK Museum, The Edward Kennedy Institute, The Museum of Science, The Institute of Contemporary Art and Plimoth Plantation. The above passes were used over five hundred times and saved the museum user an average of fifteen dollars per visit.

The Old Colony Library Network (OCLN): Membership in OCLN is based on an annual assessment, which allows Hull Public Library cardholders access to 29 network libraries and branches in 26 cities and towns on the South Shore, as well as 3 academic libraries. Library patrons may borrow directly from these libraries, or request materials from these libraries which can later be picked up at the Hull Library. In order to access the above services, the Hull Public Library needs to retain its certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

In addition to over two million holdings at these institutions, membership in the OCLN allows library users access to a virtual library that contains periodical databases and other digital

media. A recent addition to the OCLN virtual library is the Overdrive program. This program allows cardholders to check out electronic and audio books online and download these directly to their computers or other devices. In FY 17, Hull residents checked out over 84,000 items at the Hull Public Library and other network libraries.

2017 Activities and Highlights:

In November, Music Host Ron Della Chiesa and Library Trustee Frank Parker presented an excellent program, “The Aspect of the American Songbook” at the Hull Public Library.

Together with the Hull Lifesaving Museum, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Nantasket Beach Hotel, the Friends of the Hull Library continued to support the very popular Nantasket Beach Lecture Series. Some highlights of the 2017 Nantasket Beach Lecture Series:

General Richard “Butch” Neal, “What Now Lieutenant? Leadership Forged from Events in Vietnam, Desert Storm and Beyond”

Bob Gallagher, “The Wreck of the Etrusco”

Sy Montgomery and Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, “Tamed and Untamed: Close Encounters of the Animal Kind”

Lynn DiGiacomo, “Jerusalem Road’s Gold Coast Barons and their Mansions”

Bob Chessia, “Thomas Larsen, the Copper King of Scituate”

Arthur Milmore, “And the Sea Shall Have Them: The Wreck of the Steamer Portland”

The Library also hosts an active book group administrated by Assistant Librarian Ellen Kane, and facilitated by dedicated Book Group Moderator Judy Fanuele. Books read in 2017 included: *America’s First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray, *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck, *First Women* by Kate Brower, *The Speckled Monster* by Jennifer Lee Carrell, *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens, *The Nest* by Cynthia D’ Aprix Sweeney, *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout, *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante. The book group normally meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2:30 P.M. in the Library.

In 2017, the Trustees successfully established a revolving fund for the library at the Annual Town Meeting. The revolving fund allows library fines to be used by the library instead of going into the general fund.

Each year in the months of November and December, the Hull Public Library waives fines on items borrowed at the Hull Library. In return, library users are asked to donate non- perishable food items, which are given to the Wellspring Food Pantry.

The Board of Library Trustees is looking into the placing of the library building on the National Historic Register. If undertaken, this process will be done in conjunction with the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen.

The Trustees realize the importance of a public library to the community, particularly in the current economic climate, and will continue to do the utmost to preserve the public library, which is a vital resource to the all the citizens of Hull.

Library Staff

The Hull Public Library is proud to have a staff of hard working, flexible, and creative individuals. Our personnel includes: Children's Librarian Anne Masland, Assistant Librarians Ann Selig and Ellen Kane, Library Associates Cynthia Ryder and Doreen Wholey, and Library employee, Julie Marden. This friendly, knowledgeable staff provides great service to the people of Hull.

Children's Librarian Anne Masland arranged for several delightful programs in 2017. These included Steve Rudolph's Magic Show, Musician Stephen Baird, Eyes on Owls, and Puppeteer Leigh Baltzer. All were free to children and adults, with a few of the programs held at the Nantasket Beach Salt Water Club. The Children's Librarian also presents a preschool story hour in seasonal sessions throughout the year. This very popular school year program includes music and craft activities. In May or June the library hosts the new kindergarten classes providing these children with their first library cards. In addition, the library works with the Hull School Department to organize and provide reading materials for summer reading lists. Ms. Masland selects and catalogs children's and young adult materials.

Assistant Librarian Ellen Kane is responsible for the ordering of all adult books and DVDs and contributes to cataloging these items. Together with Victoria Stevens of the Hull Lifesaving Museum, and Jessica Renehan of the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Ms Kane produces and hosts the Nantasket Beach Lecture Series.

Assistant Librarian Ann Selig is responsible for cataloging adult materials, ordering all library supplies, and administrating our museum passes and periodical collection. In addition, Ms Selig keeps our computers in good working order and stays current of trends in library technology.

Library Associates Doreen Wholey and Cynthia Ryder are two of our extraordinary front desk staff. They are in charge of a wide range of administrative tasks, keep our shelves current with new materials, and serve as our readers' advisory.

Library Employee Julie Marden is a knowledgeable library veteran who ably manages the Hull Public Library website, our Facebook page, and our Instagram account.

Fiscal Matters.

The library budget was funded in FY 18 at \$315,340. The Library is now open forty two hours per week over a six day period, including two evenings and Saturdays.

Library Certification:

To receive State Aid to Public Libraries, and to be eligible for reciprocal borrowing privileges with other libraries, a municipality and its library must be annually certified by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) as having met: 1) the municipal appropriation requirement (MAR) for the current fiscal year, and 2) a certain number of hours based on population (in Hull's case 40 hours) and 3) a certain percentage of the library budget

spent on the purchase of new library materials (in Hull's case 16% of the appropriated library budget).

Hull currently meets all of the above requirements. The Board of Library Trustees are determined that the Hull Library continue to meet these requirements and retain library certification.

Conclusion

We extend a very special thank you to both the Nantasket Beach Hotel and the Nantasket Beach Salt Water Club for generously allowing us to hold library functions at their wonderful venues.

The Hull Public Library thanks the Friends of the Hull Public Library and the Hull Public Library Foundation for their support.

The Hull Public Library works hard to provide the level of service which the people of Hull deserve, despite the limited resources it has to work with. Now in its second century, the Hull Public Library expects to be a vital part of the community for many years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin Loechner, Chair;
Amy Hyde, Vice Chair
Mary Dunphy, Secretary
Karis North,
Francis Parker
Misty Whelan

Daniel Johnson, Library Director