



HULL PUBLIC LIBRARY

To enlighten and enrich the community of Hull.

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www.hullpubliclibrary.org

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, 2020

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

Libraries in the Time of COVID

2020 created many challenges for libraries and other institutions but also brought opportunities as well. Starting March 17, 2020 the library building was closed to the public. What many thought would be for a few weeks or a month turned out to be for the rest of the year. This did not mean the end of library services. Quite the contrary. To be begin with, the Hull Public Library and the Old Colony Library Network already offered many online services. The library staff also assisted the Town Clerk and Selectmen's offices by answering phones and other routine tasks.

Online Services

The Hull Public Library website [www. HullPublicLibrary.org](http://www.HullPublicLibrary.org) 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 library users to search library catalogs across the state. The newest feature 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 allows 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. As the library building is closed, library users can sign up for an electronic card or E card on the OCLN website. The process is very simple and easy. An E card works just like an ordinary physical

library card. The Library also reactivated its Facebook page and added an Instagram account. Social media is another way library users can keep up with current information.

One of the most popular of the online services are E books (electronic books) which can be downloaded from the OCLN website to your device, whether it be a computer, kindle or other device. Other popular online services include Ancestry.com and Hoopla databases which can be accessed from home or other off site location. All you need is a valid OCLN library card whether it be a physical card or an E card.

Traditional Services

The closure of the building to the public forced the staff to come up with some different ideas to provide library services. First of all, library staff were present in the building most of the regular hours to answer questions by phone or email. In May the Hull Library began offering the borrowing of physical items again. We were one of the first libraries to offer this service. Other area libraries copied Hull. Library users could place holds online, by phone, email. In the beginning, as statewide delivery was suspended, users were limited to the Hull collection. In July, statewide delivery resumed and Hull users had access to the whole OCLN Network. As the public cannot enter the building, people pick up their items on the front porch. It is called “Front Porch Pickup” It has proved to be a very popular service.

Library Programs

The pandemic caused the Hull Library to reduce the number of programs offered and also the changed the way they are offered. The library was able to offer two Nantasket Beach Lecture. One before the pandemic with John Galluzzo at the Hull Lifesaving Museum and the other during the pandemic with author Peter Milewski on the library lawn. Puppeteer Leigh Baltzer offered several children’s programs on the library lawn during the summer and the fall.

The Library continued its active book group administrated by Assistant Librarian Ellen Kane, and facilitated by dedicated Book Group Moderator Judy Fanuele. The book group met outside on the library lawn during warmer months and turned to Zoom meetings in the cooler weather. Some of the books read in 2020 included: **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee** by Dee Brown, **Grandma Gatewood** by Ben Montgomery and **What the Eyes Don’t’ See** by Mona Hanna – Attisha The book group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2:30 P.M.

The Library continues to offer museum passes which are funded by the Friends of the Library. However, many museums were forced to close due to the pandemic and once they reopened, museums were forced to limit the number of visitors at one time. The Hull Library has offered er 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 Patuxcet (formerly Plimoth Plantation) Recently, the Friends of the Library added four more museums, Peabody Essex Museum, Trustees of Reservations, The Harvard Museums and Boston by Foot. The above passes save the museum user an average of fifteen dollars per visit.

Library Staff

The Hull Public Library is proud to have a staff of hard working, flexible, and creative individuals.

In 2020, the longtime library director, Daniel Johnson informed the trustees that he would be retiring after 39 years of service, 34 as director. Mr. Johnson agreed to stay on until a successor was hired. Our personnel also include: 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 arranges children's programs. There were not as many of them in 2020 due to the pandemic. The programs that were held were done on the library lawn. In May or June, the library hosts the new kindergarten classes providing these children with their first library cards. In 2020 this was done virtually. 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 Michael McGurl of the Hull Lifesaving Museum, MS Kane produces and hosts the Nantasket Beach Lecture Series which were also reduced in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Anne Masland and Ellen Kane set up a weekly column to run in the Hull Times listing new library items.

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 reader's advisories.

Library Employee Julie Marden works for us part-time as a knowledgeable library veteran, and ably maintains our library website, Facebook page and Instagram account.

Library Substitutes Penny Burns, Lorraine Mahoney and Suellen Milley are able to capably step in at the front desk when needed.

Fiscal Matters.

The library budget was funded in FY 21 at \$329, 908 The Library is now staffed forty-three hours per week over a six-day period, including two evenings and Saturdays.

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 when circumstances allow.

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 that the people of Hull deserve, despite the limited resources that it has to work with. Now in its second century, the Hull Public Library expects to be here for many years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Hyde, Chair;
Mary Dunphy, Vice Chair
Celia Nolan, Secretary
Kathy Grant-Petrelli
Kevin Loechner
Gail Saitow

Daniel Johnson, Library Director