

**Brooks Free Library Board of Trustees**

Wed., Aug. 14, 2019

Thornton Room, Brooks Free Library

739 Main St., Harwich MA 02645

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order/Attendance
2. Reorganization of the Board
3. Approval of Minutes of June 19, 2019
4. Public Comment
5. Reports:
  - A. Chairman
  - B. Library Director
  - C. Building & Grounds Committee
  - D. Liaison from Board of Selectmen
  - E. Friends of Brooks Free Library
6. Correspondence
7. Old Business:
  - A. Update on Strategic Planning Process
  - B. Update on Town Insurance Requirements for Goods and Service Contracts
8. New Business:
  - A. Review of actions taken during July 23, 2019 Tornado Emergency and discussion re: role of Library in response and recovery
  - B. Vote to Accept Donations
  - C. Vote to Designate Trustees with Signing Authority for bills and payroll
  - D. Request for FY20 Meeting Room Use
8. Trustee Reports and Requests for Next Meeting's Agenda
9. Upcoming Meetings/Events
  - A. Selectmen Annual Meeting with Non-Resident Taxpayers – Mon. August 12, 2019, 6:30 PM at Town Hall
  - B. Library Board of Trustees –Wed., Sept. 11, 2019 - 7 PM – Brooks Free Library
  - C. Library Board of Trustees –Wed., Oct. 9, 2019 - 7 PM – Brooks Free Library
10. Adjournment

**Authorized posting officer**

*Virginia A. Hewitt*

Brooks Free Library

**Posted by**

Town Clerk's Office

Agenda submitted electronically to Town for posting. The full packet - Agenda, Minutes & Reports – will be posted on the Town website, [www.harwich-ma.gov/brooks-free-library-board-of-trustees](http://www.harwich-ma.gov/brooks-free-library-board-of-trustees), and the Library website, [www.brooksfreeibrary.org/brooks-free-library-board-of-trustees](http://www.brooksfreeibrary.org/brooks-free-library-board-of-trustees) on the Friday preceding the meeting.

*\* Per the Attorney General's Office: Boards/Commissions may hold an open session for topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting following "New Business"*

*If you are deaf or hard of hearing or are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation, contact the Library at 508-430-7562 or [brooksfreeibrary@clamsnet.org](mailto:brooksfreeibrary@clamsnet.org).*

## Brooks Free Library Board of Trustees

Wed., June 19, 2019

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Brooks Free Library  
739 Main St., Harwich MA 02645

### DRAFT Minutes

1. Call to Order/Attendance: Chair Mary Warde called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance were Selectman Liaison Stephen Ford, Bernadette Waystack, JoAnn Brown, Joan McCarty, Jeannie Wheeler, Library Director Ginny Hewitt, Assistant Director Emily Milan. Bill Crowell and Kathleen Remillard were absent.
2. Reorganization of the Board: JoAnn Brown made a motion to organize the Board as follows: Mary Warde, Chair; Joan McCarty, Vice Chair, Bill Crowell, Treasurer; Kathleen Remillard, Corresponding Secretary; Jennifer Wheeler and JoAnn Brown, and Grounds, Bernadette Waystack, Member. Jeannie Wheeler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Approval of Minutes of May 13, 2019: Joan McCarty made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting, as written. Jeannie Wheeler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
4. Public Comment: No public comment was made.
5. Reports:
  - A. Chairman: No report at this time.
  - B. Library Director: In addition to her written report, Ms. Hewitt mentioned recent changes to the procurement process as discussed at a Department Head meeting. The Board also discussed the ongoing reconciliation of the Lang Fund. Recent updates from Town Finance Director Carol Coppolla indicated that invoices were coded correctly, and our payments were properly authorized, processed and submitted. The issue instead results from a lack of awareness, after several turnovers in the Treasurer's position, that additional action was required to transfer Lang Fund monies from the bank to the Town's General Fund. We did not have access to information that would indicate transfers were not occurring. Going forward the Town will standardize transfer procedures and schedules and will provide written reports. We also now have access to this information in MUNIS.
  - C. Building & Grounds Committee: Will report on upcoming event under "Plans for Community Event".
  - D. Liaison from Board of Selectmen: Mr. Ford expressed his excitement at attending the meeting and offered any assistance the Board may need in the future.
  - E. Friends of Brooks Free Library: No report at this time.
6. Correspondence: No correspondence was received.
7. Old Business:
  - A. Plans for Community Event Thanking Town and Community for Funds for Exterior Preservation Project: The committee is planning an event for Saturday June 29th from 2-4 pm. The public is invited to attend a celebration of the completion of the exterior preservation project, during which Chair Warde will say a few words and refreshments will be provided. Invitations have been sent to local committees and individuals and the event was announced at the most recent Board of Selectmen's meeting.
  - B. Update on inquiry re: interest in Rogers Group statue: Ms. Hewitt reported that the owner of wrote back to acknowledge the Board's decision not to purchase the statue due to a lack of funds for such purchases. The owner may be willing to donate the statue if the library could arrange transportation of the piece and provide appropriate donation documentation.

8. New Business:
  - A. New Town Insurance Requirements for Vendors for Goods and Service Contracts: As reported in Ms. Hewitt's written report, we have outlined several questions regarding the new requirements and are awaiting a response from the Town Administrator.
  - B. Vote to Accept Donations: No donations at this time.
  - C. Library Director annual performance evaluation: Chair Warde thanked the Board members for submitting their evaluations and indicated that she will meet with Ms. Hewitt before the end of the month.
8. Trustee Reports and Requests for Next Meeting's Agenda: Chair Warde requested that an update on the Long Range Planning process be added to future agendas. She also indicated a desire to update the evaluation form, the Board of Trustees by-laws, and discuss the need for a contract for the Library Director as is required by Massachusetts General Law.
9. Upcoming Meetings/Events
  - A. Library Board of Trustees –Wed., July 10, 2019 - 7 PM – Brooks Free Library
10. Adjournment: There being no further business JoAnn Brown made a motion to adjourn, Jeannie Wheeler seconded and the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Milan

Library Director's Report  
August 8 2019

Annual Report and Information Survey (ARIS)

I am currently working on the ARIS report, to be submitted to the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) by August 16<sup>th</sup>. This report contains data on staffing, holdings, circulation, programs and services for FY19 and is one of two required annually for the municipality to be certified and eligible for State Aid to Libraries funds. Copies will be provided to you at your meeting.

Tornado

A tornado touched down in Harwich on a path right through Harwich Center on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was mid-day and the Library was full of patrons when the warnings were received. Staff members quickly jumped into action, advising patrons to seek shelter in our basement meeting room and bringing in people who were planning to wait in the car. Youth Services Librarian Ann Carpenter quickly gathered games, paper and markers so that when families arrived in the basement the children were quickly engaged in activities that kept them occupied and unaware that something unusual was happening. We lost power shortly after moving people to the basement but the generator came on immediately so we had light and electricity in the meeting room. The staff made popcorn and passed out cookies, water and coffee.

Four trees fell on cars in our parking lot when the tornado came through; several of these were vehicles of people who had originally intended to wait in their cars so everyone was grateful to have been in the safety of our basement.

I was extremely impressed with how staff members responded and worked together efficiently, each contributing in different ways to make sure everyone was kept safe! Their calm demeanors kept our guests calm and confident that they were in a safe place. Many patrons complied with our request to move to the basement, but as tornados are so unusual here, they didn't really appreciate the danger. The staff's calmness also provided a sense of normalcy, so they were shocked afterwards when they saw the damage. We received many compliments from patrons about how we handled the "shelter in place" in the basement and kept the children entertained so there was no sense of fear or that a crisis was occurring.

I was also very impressed with how people pulled together in the immediate aftermath of the tornado. A number of the men joined together and began removing trees and limbs from the vehicles so they could be moved. Remarkably, three cars that appeared covered by some very heavy tree limbs suffered only scratches. One car was under a tree that was uprooted and it could not be moved. A Dept. of Public Works crew removed the tree the next day. It suffered extensive damage and the owner had it towed away.

As you know all of the major roads in the town, and pretty much every road in Harwich Center, was impassable in the immediate aftermath of the tornado. We kept patrons here as long as possible but gradually they began trying to head home. By 4 pm we did not have patrons here and the evening shift was unable to get here so we closed at 4pm.

Staff members came in at 7 so we could open early at 8:30 am the next morning. We'd contacted the media, updated our website and posted on social media that we'd be open expanded hours and that we had both power and the Internet. The response was tremendous. The Library was full all day with people charging their laptops and devices, going online, reading newspapers

and magazines, and picking up books and games to take home. Our signboard on Main St. announcing the early opening and that we had power and Internet was a huge draw. Multiple reporters from Boston media outlets stopped to find out more, so it was a great opportunity to take about the value of libraries and the services we can provide after a disaster. Since so much of the town was still without power we offered the expanded hours on Thursday as well.

The new irrigation system was damaged by the uprooted tree, but the building itself did not suffer any damage. The generator came on immediately and provided power, the first real-life test of it since it was installed this spring. The elevator and the compressor for the air conditioning chiller did not work on generator power, however. The Facilities Manager is aware of this and investigating why these systems were not functioning on generator power. The weather for the next few days was in the mid-70's, so the loss of air conditioning was not a major problem. We posted a wireless doorbell on the elevator door by the parking lot entrance so anyone who could not manage the stairs (and could not or did not want to walk around to the Main St entrance) could request staff assistance.

One system that failed that was extremely important is the phone system. The Library is on the same phone system as Town Hall and the Public Safety Building. As has happened in previous storms, the phone system has gone down when the Town Hall generator failed. We were unable to make and receive calls during that time, or to change the outgoing message so that callers would know we were open but did not have phones and would not be able to return their voice messages. More importantly, the loss of the phone system means that our fire protection system would still continue to operate - the sprinklers would activate when called for - but without a working phone system the signal would not be relayed to the monitoring company and the Fire Dept. would not be notified to respond. This is a major concern.

The OpenCape network is more reliable and has more redundancy than other providers so our Internet was working when most people in town were without it for several days. We moved our public wi-fi network, which is normally on a free connection provided by Comcast, over to the public Open Cape connection so that patrons could access the Internet on their laptops and devices. Our internal networking equipment could not handle the volume of traffic so we decided not to use our public wired stations. Chromebooks were available for those who didn't have their own devices so no one was denied Internet access. For the future, we plan to upgrade our internal networking equipment and will also investigate the added cost to upgrade the bandwidth on our public OpenCape connection so all of the public traffic could utilize OpenCape.

We received a very nice recognition in a Cape Cod Times editorial complimenting area towns on the resiliency shown by government and community members in the aftermath of the tornados. I've included a copy of the editorial in your packet in case you missed it.

#### Disaster Recovery Assistance Information

When a federal disaster is declared a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is set up, normally one in a county. Ten years ago Federal Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) began an initiative to place the DRCs in public libraries, and we have been very involved in this effort. This is a natural partnership with the reference function of libraries the public comes to us for information anyway. This would also expand the reach of the DRCs since librarians would continue to provide information and referral services to the public as the federal and state agencies withdraw their staff and the DRC closes.

The ability to host a DRC and be open to provide services to the community after a blizzard or hurricane was why the Capital Outlay Committee recommended our generator project be moved up several years on the Capital Plan. Now that we have the generator, I wanted to ensure that Brooks Free Library would be able to fulfill this goal. After reading media reports on the evening of Wed. July 24<sup>th</sup> that the state intended to apply for a federal disaster declaration I decided to be proactive and advocate for Brooks Free Library to be selected to host the DRC. This would mean our residents would not have to travel to another town to receive information and apply for assistance. I contacted the Preservation Specialist at the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners, who put me in touch with a staff member at the Mass. Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The MEMA representative told me that if a federal disaster is not declared, the state can set up a Recovery Resource Center if needed. While it was premature for any decisions, the feedback I received was very positive as the Library is invested in the success of either a DRC or RRC and we have the meeting room space, a generator and working Internet connection.

On Friday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> I contacted Sean O'Brien, Barnstable County's Emergency Management Director, who has attended several workshops we've held related to COSTEP, the state-wide initiative to bring the cultural heritage community (libraries, museums and archives), first responders and emergency managers together to better prepare for and recover from disasters. Sean was extremely interested in working together to ensure community members receive the information they need to help with recovery.

Rather than wait another one to two weeks for a determination on whether a DRC or RRC would be set up we decided to be proactive about getting the word out to community members on recovery resources available to them. We set up a page on our website to provide one consolidated location for this information and publicized it through our website, social media and outreach to local media. The Disaster Recovery Resources is under the Reference heading on our webpage. (The direct link is: <https://www.brooksfreelibrary.org/reference/disaster-recovery-resources>). We were unable to add some assistance initiatives as we only learned of them after the service had stopped (for ex: that the Salvation Army was providing meals for those without power.)

The process of determining if the Town/County qualifies for a federal disaster declaration has been very slow, and from media reports it appears the threshold may not be met.

On August 8<sup>th</sup> I participated remotely in a Board meeting for COSTEP Massachusetts and discussed the need to update the 2009 site survey of libraries on the Cape and offered my assistance helping obtain updated information from those libraries. We also discussed the need for a consolidated site for information on recovery resources for when a DRC or RRC is not set up, and this is something the MBLC, MEMA and COSTEP will be working on in the future.

Finally, I have been asked to participate in a panel discussion on Responding to Community Wide Disasters at a conference COSTEP is holding for the culture heritage community, emergency managers, planners and first responders at the MEMA Headquarters in Framingham on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### Bequest for Daris E. Keeler

We were notified in early July that Daris E. Keeler, a former resident of Harwich, had passed away in April and left us \$5000 from her trust. Since there wasn't a July meeting we deposited the check to our Gift Account but the Trustees will still need to accept this very generous gift (Acceptance of Donations on the Agenda.)

### Mental Health First Aid

I am attending 8-hour Mental Health First Aid program being sponsored by the Council on Aging COA-sponsored program Aug. 6 – Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> to improve our ability to provide services to community members and families who are dealing with mental illness.

### CPA-funded Harwich Oracle Project

Digitized Harwich Oracle and original newspapers have been returned to us. Reference Librarian Jennifer Pickett and Staff Librarian Emily Carta are reviewing and developing instructions to assist patrons using this resource. This work was funded with Community Preservation Act funds and the project is now complete.

### Strategic Plan

We have not met since May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Trustees on the steering committee have been available but the Asst. Director and I have not. It was unrealistic for me to have expected to have very much time to devote to this over the summer, though normally I would have had some time. This summer has been much busier for us than normal, with some unexpected complications. I do not expect to meet until the fall.

This delay has been fortunate, however, as the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners is revising their guidelines on strategic plan requirements and the Mass. Library System, which provides consulting and continuing education services to Mass. libraries, is reviewing the new models for the planning process being used across the country. I learned about this when I met with a consultant from MLS on July 10<sup>th</sup>. MLS may be interested in helping us investigate the newer models and developing a standard process they can recommend to Mass. libraries.

### IT Consultant

Last week Staff Librarian Emily Carta and I met with IT consultant who's been working with the Town IT Coordinator and Public Safety departments for the 15 years to review our network infrastructure to begin putting a plan together to upgrade our internal network.

### Town Insurance Requirements for Vendors

We have not had a response to my June 12th email relaying our concerns and questions and requesting a meeting. We were told at the June 18<sup>th</sup> Dept. Head meeting that the requirements might be excessive in some cases and new guidelines would be forthcoming. We have not had to submit any requests for new vendor numbers for MUNIS so this has not been a problem for the Library yet.

### 2020 Census:

I participated in a webinar "Census 2020: Why A Complete Count Matters and How Libraries Can Help" on August 6<sup>th</sup> and subsequently reached out to the head of the Barnstable County Complete Count Committee to offer assistance.

### Climate Preparedness Week:

The Mass. Library System (MLS) is encouraging libraries across the state to join them as they partner with Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) to host climate change events for Climate Preparedness Week, which runs from September 24-30, 2019. We are

working on several preparedness events and given the recent tornado we expect to get a lot of community interest. More details will be provided when our plans are finalized.

#### Traffic Safety Study of Harwich Center

The Cape Cod Commission study of Harwich Center, scheduled for this summer, has not yet occurred. The Harwich Center Initiative is on hiatus while waiting for the results of this study and the recommendations of the traffic engineers.

#### Upcoming Financial Deadlines:

- 9.20.19 - Capital Plan submissions due
- 10.1.19 - New requests for Community Preservation Act funds
- 10.4.19 - State Aid Financial Report due to MBLC.
- 10.19.19 - Compiled Financial Report for Municipalities with Multiple Independent Libraries due to MBLC
- 11.29.19 - Dept. FY21 budget requests and Warrant articles due to Town Administrator

#### Trustees Annual Meeting with Board of Selectmen

Per the information provided in the Selectmen's packet for their August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Trustees are scheduled to meet with the Board of Selectmen Oct. 28, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia A. Hewitt  
Library Director



FY19 Budget Balances  
6.30.2019

AREA OF EXPENDITURE	Appropriated Amt	Spent	Remaining Balance	Percent Spent
Advertising	\$160.00	\$149.40	\$10.60	93%
Dues, Subs & Travel	\$3,500.00	\$2,790.41	\$709.59	80%
Educational Supplies	\$152,725.00	\$155,647.87	-\$2,922.87	102%
Electric	\$32,500.00	\$27,871.03	\$4,628.97	86%
Employee Fringe Benefits	\$393.00	\$0.00	\$393.00	0%
Gas	\$11,980.00	\$10,702.61	\$1,277.39	89%
Library Supplies	\$12,600.00	\$12,679.46	-\$79.46	101%
Maintenance & Repair	\$5,600.00	\$5,658.98	-\$58.98	101%
Office Supplies	\$5,650.00	\$5,541.87	\$108.13	98%
Professional & Tech	\$47,977.00	\$47,997.51	-\$20.51	100%
Water	\$1,026.00	\$1,033.93	-\$7.93	101%
Total Library Expenses	\$274,111.00	\$270,073.07	\$4,037.93	99%
Wages & Salaries	\$676,740.91	\$665,595.48	\$11,145.43	98%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$950,851.91</b>	<b>\$935,668.55</b>	<b>\$15,183.36</b>	<b>98%</b>

AREA OF EXPENDITURE	Spent
Lang Trust Fund - Non-Educational	\$15,045.18
Lang Trust Fund - Education Supplies	\$4,959.21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,004.39</b>
Library Gift Account - Other	\$3,150.68
Library Gift Account - VITAL	\$1,558.54
Library Gift Account - Education Supplies	\$1,046.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,755.62</b>

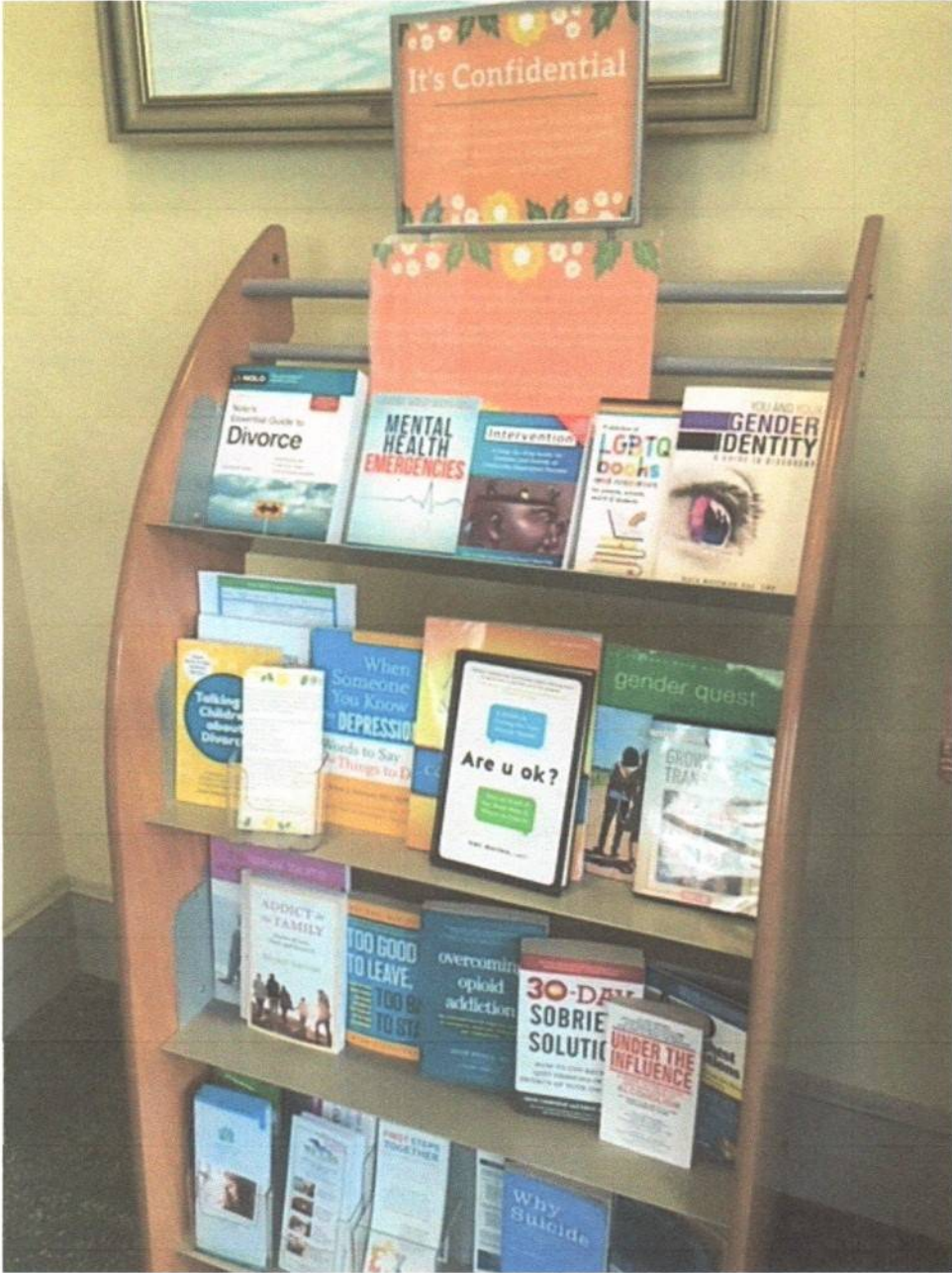
## FY20 Budget Balances

7/30/2019

AREA OF EXPENDITURE	Appropriated Amt	Spent	Remaining Balance	Percent Spent
Advertising	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$160.00	0%
Dues, Subs & Travel	\$3,600.00	\$350.00	\$3,250.00	10%
Educational Supplies	\$155,750.00	\$16,468.07	\$139,281.93	11%
Electric	\$34,125.00	\$1,996.31	\$32,128.69	6%
Employee Fringe Benefits	\$280.00	\$0.00	\$280.00	0%
Gas	\$13,806.00	\$0.00	\$13,806.00	0%
Library Supplies	\$13,000.00	\$1,287.24	\$11,712.76	10%
Maintenance & Repair	\$5,700.00	\$927.84	\$4,772.16	16%
Office Supplies	\$5,650.00	\$0.00	\$5,650.00	0%
Professional & Tech	\$49,275.00	\$41,804.61	\$7,470.39	85%
Water	\$1,026.00	\$0.00	\$1,026.00	0%
Total Library Expenses	\$282,372.00	\$62,834.07	\$219,537.93	22%
Wages & Salaries	\$713,111.21	\$55,900.29	\$657,210.92	8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$995,483.21</b>	<b>\$118,734.36</b>	<b>\$876,748.85</b>	<b>12%</b>

Reference Librarian's report to Trustees  
August 8, 2019

The Confidential Corner is here!



I finally finished this project that has been in the works for some time now – many thanks to Ann (for the original idea), Emily M, Emily C, and Jamie for help with the graphics and putting it all together. This display is now on the Mezzanine level next to the elevator – a place that we hope is somewhat private but also visible enough to catch your eye.

The books here are free and do not need to be checked out – it says this on the sign at the top. The items are not labeled in any way. The display lets people know that the books they check out (and any reference questions they ask) are confidential. The bookmarks have the call numbers of where you can find more books on these topics.

I plan to keep close track of which books disappear from this display so I can keep it well stocked and to note the subjects of interest. There is a handout there on birth control methods as well as other handouts from select sources. A few DVD's are in there as well.

I also recently updated our big signs of Dewey Decimal numbers on the second floor (they are in 2 places). That list is actually a combination of the most frequently asked about Dewey numbers as well as the numbers for sensitive topics that we might not get asked about.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Pickett, Reference Librarian

Youth Services Report  
August 5, 2019

Summer Reading Program

So far this summer we have 427 children and teens signed up for the program, with 276 having returned for their prize and free book. Together, they have logged 3,035 hours worth of reading. At just over the halfway point of the summer, we are likely to have another strong year. Final details and an analysis of the impact of our new "maker prizes" this year will be forthcoming in September.

Special Summer Events

We have had 1,237 people attend our special summer events up to this point. This is slightly less than last year's 1,383 at the same point in the summer, by design. A change in our publicity practices means that so far we have not had the stress and commotion of "selling out" of the free tickets, or having to run a second show on the same day to accommodate huge crowds. The drop in attendance correlates almost exactly with the number of people attending these second overflow shows last year. Otherwise, the summer has been strong, with most of our programs well attended.

Deposit Collection

A deposit collection of children's books was established for the Harwich Recreation Department Playground Program, which provides childcare for local Harwich families during the summer. About 100 books were brought to the program for children to read while attending this day program. The books are replaced with new reading choices every two weeks. A signup sheet is available for students to request particular books or subject matter that they would like to read about.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Carpenter  
Youth Services Librarian

## OUR VIEW - Resilience realized - Working together in the face of catastrophe

July 30, 2019 | Cape Cod Times (Hyannis, MA)

Page: A7 | Section: MA Opinion

676 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1540, grade level(s): >12

---

Last week's tornadoes left a swath of destruction across the Mid Cape, with hundreds of trees uprooted, cars destroyed, and homes damaged. The final price tag for the destruction and subsequent cleanup will likely reach into the tens of millions of dollars, but remarkably, no major injuries or deaths were reported. Instead, this violent storm actually brought out the best in so many local residents and visitors, working together and reaching out to one another to provide for the common good.

Unlike hurricanes, which often batter wide geographic areas and thus democratize the sense of suffering, tornadoes are more akin to swift, random attacks, popping up and down with seemingly no logic, and leaving wreckage in their wake. Driving around after last Tuesday's twisters, it quickly became apparent that although the tornadoes cut a distinct swath of destruction through the Mid Cape, some yards sustained extensive damage, while next door, it was as if nothing had happened.

In some ways, however, everyone felt the effects. As people began to emerge from their homes, dazed by a storm that left as abruptly as it had arrived, the scope of the loss quickly became apparent; roads blocked by massive trees, power lines lying in twisted tangles, power outages projected to last days. In the immediate aftermath of the tornadoes, 93 percent of Harwich was without power. In Chatham, only 2 percent of homes had electricity. In total, 50,000 people across Cape Cod were in the dark.

How did people respond? They started calling friends and family members to make sure they were safe. Then the roar of chainsaws began to fill the air, a sound that along with chippers would become a consistent background noise for days to come. As the power outage continued, neighbors began firing up their grills, inviting over friends to cook up the food that would eventually spoil if left in darkened refrigerators.

Some stores opened by light of lanterns and flashlights, with people paying with cash and clerks writing down individual transactions, as if all were suddenly transported to a century gone by. On

Tuesday night, at one small market in Harwich, the most popular items were not flashlights and batteries, but newspapers, liquor, energy drinks and cigarettes. Across the street from the same market, an impromptu outdoor gathering was punctuated with sounds of laughter and joking, rather than complaints about the lack of electricity.

The next morning, just a few buildings down, the Brooks Library hummed to life, powered by a recently installed generator, and welcoming everyone to stop by, take a break, and perhaps charge their cell phones.

For those whose streets remained passable, it quickly became apparent that a bucket truck brigade had made landfall on Cape Cod. Vehicles bearing the logos of Eversource, Verizon and Comcast crisscrossed towns, and a fleet of tree company trucks with names both familiar and strange began filling the streets. Out behind the Cape Cod Mall, a staging ground worthy of a military invasion began to take shape, with dozens of Eversource vehicles and a fleet of orange Asplundh bucket trucks standing by for orders.

Despite original predictions that towns would be without power for days, most residents got their electricity back relatively quickly, considering the damage. Similarly, a battery of town and state emergency crews, bolstered by members of the National Guard, worked tirelessly to get roads opened and debris pushed to the side.

Certainly, the good humor began to wear thin for many as they sat in detoured traffic or as the power outage dragged on for some beyond the 24-hour mark. Likewise, we are only now beginning to get a full appreciation for the damage that has been done, and the fact that some parts of Yarmouth, Harwich and Chatham have been irrevocably changed.

Still, even amid the cold realization of how much work remains to be done, and even while waiting in the long lines at the local transfer station to deposit brush and branches, there remains a sense of camaraderie in the shared experience, a feeling of gratitude that it was not worse, and a realization that working together, there is nothing that we cannot get through.

- **CITATION (AGLC STYLE)**

'OUR VIEW Resilience realized Working together in the face of catastrophe', *Cape Cod Times* (online), 30 Jul 2019 A7  
<<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/175020979DFB9920>>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Deedy, Maura (BLC) <maura.deedy@state.ma.us>

Date: Mon, Jul 22, 2019 at 10:32 AM

Subject: [allregions] Announcing Fall 2019 Trustee Orientations - Sign up today!

To: allregions@mblc.state.ma.us <allregions@mblc.state.ma.us>

Cc: trustees-announce@mblc.state.ma.us <trustees-announce@mblc.state.ma.us>

(please excuse cross posting)

The Fall 2019 Trustee Orientations are now open for registration. We'll be visiting 5 libraries throughout the state and hope to see you at one of them.

These sessions are for new library trustees, seasoned board members, and library directors. Trustee Orientations are run by Maura Deedy, Library Advisory Specialist and Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory & Development.

At each session we cover board responsibilities, library funding and State Aid, state laws with relevance to libraries, and how to be an effective advocate for libraries. Time is included for questions and answers. Orientations are a great opportunity to meet key staff at MBLC who work with trustees, trustees from neighboring communities, and Commissioners at select orientations.

All Trustee Orientations are from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Wednesday, September 25, 2019                      Goodnow Library, Sudbury

<https://mblc.libcal.com/event/5597768>

Wednesday, October 09, 2019                      Westfield Athenaeum

<https://mblc.libcal.com/event/5597771>

Wednesday, October 16, 2019                      Chelmsford Public Library

<https://mblc.libcal.com/event/5597774>

Wednesday, October 30, 2019                      David & Joyce Milne Public Library, Williamstown

<https://mblc.libcal.com/event/5597793>

Tuesday, November 05, 2019                      Middleborough Public Library

<https://mblc.libcal.com/event/5597797>

Please be in touch if you have any questions about our Trustee Orientations.

Maura

Maura Deedy

Library Advisory Specialist

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

(617) 725-1860 x250

pronouns: she/her/hers

[maura.deedy@state.ma.us](mailto:maura.deedy@state.ma.us)

<http://mass.gov/mblc>

[allregions@mblc.state.ma.us](mailto:allregions@mblc.state.ma.us) is a statewide discussion list for  
Massachusetts libraries