

WEBSTER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR 2021

Our hope in our 2020 Annual Report was that things would return to normal by the end of 2021. COVID stayed with us throughout the year, though, so we had a quieter than usual year, and returning to normal practices took place in small increments. We began the year still sanitizing and social distancing, and still holding our meetings via Zoom. We did not have any performers or speakers this year.

In June, our Wednesday evening hours resumed, we stopped limiting the number of persons in the library at any one time, and we recommenced in-person trustees meetings at the library. We stopped requiring masks in July and our Summer Reading Program once again took place in the library. Our Free Friday Films started up again in September.

Sadly, in December, rising COVID rates necessitated a return of our mask requirement.

We refurbished our garden this year, to the enjoyment of the butterflies as well as our human visitors. We acquired two Chromebooks for patrons to check out. And, after an absence of many years, we brought back a puzzle collection to the library.

Our librarian applied for and received an American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) grant, which was used to purchase a scanner for preserving and digitizing local history materials, and to purchase Playaway Launchpads to support STEM education for children.

We wish to thank the following people who donated generously to the library this past year: Chris and Summer Dawe for their donation in memory of Janice and Frederic Dawe, Marylou and Phil Desmarais, and Judith O'Donnell. Thank you, also, to everyone else who supported the library with their donations of time, materials, or money.

We added 54 names to our patron files and removed 62, giving us a total of 451 registered borrowers. 1,437 people visited the library during the year. We added 501 books, audiobooks, DVDs, and other materials and removed 463, leaving us with 11,359 materials. Our library members checked out 4,302 books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, museum passes, and equipment, and downloaded 3,579 audiobooks, eBooks, magazines, movies, television shows, music, and comics. We loaned 247 materials to other libraries, and borrowed 172.

Our most popular book in 2021 was *Klara and the Sun*, by Kazuo Ishiguro, and our most popular DVD was *News of the World*.

By borrowing materials from the library, our members saved \$60,693 over the cost of purchasing them.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Picthall-French, Chair
Martin Bender, Treasurer
Leslie Collins, Secretary