

Directors Report – Thursday August 24th
July Highlights

- The French conversation group that began meeting in February of this year, finished up its first set of meetings this July. The group met weekly from February - July, and gained quite a devoted following of francophile Belmontonians. The group will resume on Thursday August 24, and is still open for registration!

- The "Getting to Know Your iPhone" class was an immediate hit with patrons, with many clamoring for the library to have the Wize Guides back again for more classes.
- July also featured a more makerspace-oriented technology class, featuring stamp linocutting. This class, as well as those forthcoming in August, highlights the library as a place of community, creation and makerspace innovation.
- The summer of 2023 has offered the most childrens opportunities for programs since 2019. Highlights have included Pizza Storytime sponsored by Fiorella's Express of Belmont, an evening program with Mike the Bubbleman, Dungeons and Dragons, cooking class with Kids' Test Kitchen and much more.
- We partnered with the Burlington Public Library to bring national bestselling author Lisa See to Belmont patrons. It was an intimate program in which attendees got to hear about See's newest book and get a peek into the life of a widely lauded and beloved author.
- The July Craftalong program had a great turnout - filling even beyond the max registrations with a few whole families participating. Luckily we had enough extra supplies that no one was turned away and everyone left with a charming mini-mushroom fairy scene. It was another great opportunity to upcycle weeded/donated books and let patrons have fun unleashing their creativity while getting their hands (just a little) dirty.
- RFID progress continues to be impressive. Each Department has adapted workflows to include efforts in the various steps of this work.
- Gràinne Griffin completed an Effective Management and Leadership Course at the beginning of the summer. This was a course that took 11 weeks and that has been taken by many current and past Department Heads. We will continue to seek professional development opportunities like this one for staff members.



Current Fiscal Year Data Comparison

Key Performance Indicators

	Last Year												
	Current month	Month comparison	May 2023	Apr 2023	Mar 2023	Feb 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2022	Nov 2022	Oct 2022	Sep 2022	Aug 2022	Jul 2022
Circulation - Total	51,231	51,028	47,456	51,710	52,789	48,338	50,994	47,836	48,849	51,595	52,762	55,205	52,167
Circulation - Adult (books/magazines)	10,012	9,333	9,439	9,757	9,770	8,934	9,975	9,317	8,914	9,061	9,281	9,705	8,884
Circulation - YA print (books/magazines)	2,120	1,422	1,355	1,633	1,319	1,415	1,422	1,501	1,431	1,645	1,750	2,231	2,103
Circulation - Children's print (books/magazines)	19,176	19,577	17,862	20,248	20,272	18,190	18,731	17,324	19,335	19,522	19,114	21,690	21,188
Circulation - Adult Audio Visual	5,068	5,130	5,289	5,474	5,644	5,204	5,834	5,724	5,079	5,141	5,018	5,640	5,158
Circulation - YA Audio Visual	20	34	19	17	23	16	19	27	32	55	42	36	24
Circulation - Children's Audio Visual	993	1,002	771	1,070	1,189	1,192	1,232	1,272	1,039	1,222	1,143	1,433	1,323
Circulation - downloads & streams (eBooks/eAudiobooks/eMaterials)	13,791	14,481	12,656	13,466	14,526	13,343	13,741	12,626	12,967	14,906	16,359	14,409	13,442
Reference Questions	3,011	2,362	2,312	2,338	2,466	1,909	2,131	1,598	2,190	1,925	2,073	3,014	2,651
Programs Offered (total)	91	82	121	99	123	99	98	91	88	111	106	97	130
Adult Programs	48	25	52	44	53	40	33	26	24	42	32	16	17
YA Programs	20	29	24	24	29	26	32	39	32	36	43	54	74
Children's Programs	23	28	45	31	41	33	33	26	32	33	31	27	39
Programs Attendance (total)	1,353	929	1,648	1,621	2,114	1,357	1,587	1,374	1,139	1,747	1,241	1,099	1,388
Adult Programs Attendance	296	200	359	479	755	266	193	156	233	595	269	87	89
YA Programs Attendance	306	344	494	432	526	461	904	750	490	742	533	593	504
Children's Programs Attendance	751	385	795	710	833	630	490	468	416	410	439	419	795
Meeting Room Use	16	11	15	27	27	15	22	17	11	5	8	3	3
Museum Pass Use	199	111	154	174	140	134	133	129	124	122	107	248	205
Use of Library Computers	728	618	649	688	736	601	658	518	558	671	664	777	632
Materials added	945	918	914	831	844	687	814	527	894	1,233	1,173	735	845
Materials Withdrawn	2,418	659	2,968	1,221	1,124	1,926	1,353	1,191	1,536	787	1,012	752	1,423

RFID	June	May
The total amount of items:	109,632	109,632
The total tagged overall:	58,586	42,881
The total monthly tagged:	15,705	11,587



Current Fiscal Year Data Comparison

Key Performance Indicators

	FY2023	FY2022	FY2021	FY2020	FY2019
	Total Annual	Total Annual	Total Annual	Total Annual	Total Annual
Total Collection Use	660,618	676,640	470,953		
Circulation - Total	610,932	624,743	423,170	521,511	599,254
Circulation - Adult (books/magazines)	113,049	114,801	76,293	90,357	120,223
Circulation - YA print (books/magazines)	19,925	21,171	12,278	18,146	21,572
Circulation - Children's print (books/magazines)	232,652	245,180	135,871	181,257	219,135
Circulation - Adult Audio Visual	64,273	66,908	37,413	70,226	90,878
Circulation - YA Audio Visual	330	411	466	344	612
Circulation - Children's Audio Visual	13,879	13,801	5,820	18,231	23,354
Circulation - downloads (eBooks/eAudiobooks)	166,232	161,944	154,907	141,039	116,660
Reference Questions	27,618	27,601	10,265	14,136	29,754
Programs Offered (total)	1,254	838	481	642	772
Adult Programs	427	264	203	224	278
YA Programs	433	316	113	84	115
Children's Programs	394	258	165	334	379
Programs Attendance (total)	17,668	12,095	7,834	14,147	18,084
Adult Programs Attendance	3,777	3,250	4,681	2,554	3,353
YA Programs Attendance	6,735	4,739	744	616	1,052
Children's Programs Attendance	7,156	4,106	2,409	10,977	13,679
Meeting Room Use	169	37	0	697	941
Museum Pass Use	1,869	1,255	377	1,562	2,531
Use of Library Computers	7,880	6,392	1,384	16,028	18,418
Materials added	10,442	11,346	10,316		
Materials Withdrawn	17,711	11,103	5,678		

Date	Children's	Front Door	Assembly	Daily Total
Thursday, June 01, 2023	188	187	80	455
Friday, June 02, 2023	120	176	39	335
Saturday, June 03, 2023	263	125	56	444
Sunday, June 04, 2023	131	76	29	236
Monday, June 05, 2023	263	214	76	553
Tuesday, June 06, 2023	246	231	54	531
Wednesday, June 07, 2023	264	219	48	531
Thursday, June 08, 2023	196	193	58	447
Friday, June 09, 2023	175	133	59	367
Saturday, June 10, 2023	259	140	39	438
Sunday, June 11, 2023	124	104	19	247
Monday, June 12, 2023	216	228	69	513
Tuesday, June 13, 2023	247	235	88	570
Wednesday, June 14, 2023	350	229	136	715
Thursday, June 15, 2023	246	207	54	507
Friday, June 16, 2023	282	178	57	517
Saturday, June 17, 2023	489	159	138	786
Sunday, June 18, 2023	101	77	38	216
Monday, June 19, 2023	0	0	0	0
Tuesday, June 20, 2023	347	253	77	677
Wednesday, June 21, 2023	364	199	63	626
Thursday, June 22, 2023	316	234	72	622
Friday, June 23, 2023	257	164	50	471
Saturday, June 24, 2023	271	167	39	477
Sunday, June 25, 2023	167	76	20	263
Monday, June 26, 2023	277	200	69	546
Tuesday, June 27, 2023	303	190	71	564
Wednesday, June 28, 2023	326	215	38	579
Thursday, June 29, 2023	311	186	66	563
Friday, June 30, 2023	327	196	52	575
Month Total	7,426	5,191	1,754	14,371

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY EXPENDITURES									
							18-Aug-23		
JUNE 2023							11:10 AM		
		ORIG./ADJ. APPROPR TNS.	TRANSFER	ADJUSTED BUDGET	SPENT JUNE	SPENT JULY- JUNE	BALANCE	PROJECTED 12 MONTHS	% EXP
LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION									
16111									
511000	SALARIES, FULL TIME	190,981.00		190,981.00	19,720.50	194,772.99	(3,791.99)	190,981.00	102.0%
514800	LONGEVITY	925.00		925.00	0.00	925.00	0.00	925.00	100.0%
16112									
524500	MAINTENANCE OFFICE EQUIP	5,750.00		5,750.00	0.00	5,750.00	0.00	5,750.00	100.0%
530001	MEDICAL REPORTS & BILLS	1,640.00		1,640.00	0.00	847.00	793.00	1,640.00	51.6%
531700	EMPLOYEE TRAINING	1,570.00		1,570.00	0.00	1,570.00	0.00	1,570.00	100.0%
531900	ADVERTISING & PUBLIC RELA	500.00		500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.0%
534500	POSTAGE	1,500.00		1,500.00	82.98	1,572.76	(72.76)	1,500.00	104.9%
534700	PRINTING	1,475.00		1,475.00	123.42	1,246.67	228.33	1,475.00	84.5%
542100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	975.00		975.00	244.75	609.96	365.04	975.00	62.6%
571000	IN-STATE TRAVEL	400.00		400.00	0.00	604.80	(204.80)	400.00	151.2%
573000	DUES & MEMBERSHIP	800.00		800.00	100.00	255.00	545.00	800.00	31.9%
TOTAL LIBRARY ADMINISTRA		206,516.00	0.00	206,516.00	20,271.65	208,154.18	(1,638.18)	206,516.00	100.8%
LIBRARY PLANT OPERATIONS									
16141									
511000	SALARIES, FULL TIME	59,468.00		59,468.00	6,105.33	57,651.52	1,816.48	59,468.00	96.9%
511100	SALARIES, PART TIME	12,113.00		12,113.00	0.00	12,074.76	38.24	12,113.00	99.7%
513000	OVERTIME	10,559.00		10,559.00	1,419.28	6,689.13	3,869.87	10,559.00	63.4%
514100	SPECIALTY PAY/STIPEND	260.00		260.00	0.00	136.00	124.00	260.00	52.3%
514800	LONGEVITY	1,100.00		1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00	100.0%
519900	UNIFORM	820.00		820.00	0.00	820.00	0.00	820.00	100.0%
16142									
522800	GAS	17,000.00		17,000.00	502.13	15,454.30	1,545.70	17,000.00	90.9%
522900	ELECTRICITY	44,539.51		44,539.51	7,315.06	38,788.59	5,750.92	44,539.51	87.1%
523100	WATER	8,125.30		8,125.30	0.00	1,376.77	6,748.53	8,125.30	16.9%
523400	ENERGY CONSERVATION	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
524300	MAINTENANCE BUILDING	173,956.42		173,956.42	12,188.23	107,806.00	66,150.42	173,956.42	62.0%
524306	R&M HVAC CONTRACT SERVIK	18,000.00		18,000.00	0.00	6,400.05	11,599.95	18,000.00	35.6%
545000	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	7,000.00		7,000.00	198.20	5,249.32	1,750.68	7,000.00	75.0%
548900	GASOLINE	150.00		150.00	0.00	20.00	130.00	150.00	13.3%
TOTAL LIBRARY PLANT OPER		353,091.23	0.00	353,091.23	27728.23	253,566.44	99,524.79	353,091.23	71.8%

		ORIG./ADJ. APPROPRNTNS.	TRANSFER	ADJUSTED BUDGET	SPENT JUNE	SPENT JULY- JUNE	BALANCE	PROJECTED 12 MONTHS	% EXP
	LIBRARY PUBLIC SERVICE								
16121									
511000	WAGES, FULL TIME	803,817.00	270.00	804,087.00	111,205.86	820,859.97	(16,772.97)	804,087.00	102.1%
511100	WAGES, PART TIME	306,110.00		306,110.00	26,621.51	213,120.52	92,989.48	306,110.00	69.6%
513000	OVERTIME	10,000.00		10,000.00	1,687.95	9,981.43	18.57	10,000.00	99.8%
514105	EYEGLASS REIMBURSEMENT	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
514800	LONGEVITY	5,922.00		5,922.00	1,125.00	5,971.43	(49.43)	5,922.00	100.8%
16122									
530000	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	3,000.00		3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	100.0%
534100	TELEPHONE	6,742.25		6,742.25	707.90	4,508.72	2,233.53	6,742.25	66.9%
552900	BOOKS/PER/FILM/CD/REC	352,572.32		352,572.32	38,657.62	352,977.41	(405.09)	352,572.32	100.1%
573000	DUES	1,020.00		1,020.00	0.00	265.00	755.00	1,020.00	26.0%
585250	SOFTWARE	4,850.00		4,850.00	156.61	4,868.95	(18.95)	4,850.00	100.4%
	TOTAL LIBRARY PUBLIC SERV	1,494,033.57	270.00	1,494,303.57	180,005.84	1,410,684.48	78,769.09	1,494,303.57	94.40%
	LIBRARY TECHNICAL SERVICES								
16131									
511000	SALARIES, FULL TIME	244,332.00		244,332.00	28,984.55	247,353.72	(3,021.72)	244,332.00	101.2%
511100	SALARIES, PART TIME	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
514800	LONGEVITY	2,175.00		2,175.00	625.00	2,175.00	0.00	2,175.00	100.0%
16132									
530600	COMPUTER SERVICE	84,769.00		84,769.00	4,262.83	84,769.00	0.00	84,769.00	100.0%
542200	PROCESSING SUPPLIES	11,740.00		11,740.00	758.75	11,740.00	0.00	11,740.00	100.0%
573000	DUES	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
	TOTAL LIBRARY TECHNICAL S	343,016.00	0.00	343,016.00	34,631.13	346,037.72	-3,021.72	343,016.00	100.88%
	LIBRARY CAPITAL								
16133									
587100	CAPITAL COMPUTER	26,500.00		26,500.00	8,781.30	26,500.00	0.00	26,500.00	100.0%
	TOTAL LIBRARY DEPARTMEN	2,423,156.80	270.00	2,423,426.80	271,418.15	2,244,942.82	173,633.98	2,423,426.80	92.64%



Current Fiscal Year Data Comparison

Key Performance Indicators

	Current month	Last Year											
		month comparison	Jun 2023	May 2023	Apr 2023	Mar 2023	Feb 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2022	Nov 2022	Oct 2022	Sep 2022	Aug 2022
Circulation - Total	52,786	51,028	51,231	47,456	51,710	52,789	48,338	50,994	47,836	48,849	51,595	52,762	55,205
Circulation - Adult (books/magazines)	9,904	9,333	10,012	9,439	9,757	9,770	8,934	9,975	9,317	8,914	9,061	9,281	9,705
Circulation - YA print (books/magazines)	2,122	1,422	2,120	1,355	1,633	1,319	1,415	1,422	1,501	1,431	1,645	1,750	2,231
Circulation - Children's print (books/magazines)	19,146	19,577	19,176	17,862	20,248	20,272	18,190	18,731	17,324	19,335	19,522	19,114	21,690
Circulation - Adult Audio Visual	5,203	5,130	5,068	5,289	5,474	5,644	5,204	5,834	5,724	5,079	5,141	5,018	5,640
Circulation - YA Audio Visual	29	34	20	19	17	23	16	19	27	32	55	42	36
Circulation - Children's Audio Visual	1,242	1,002	993	771	1,070	1,189	1,192	1,232	1,272	1,039	1,222	1,143	1,433
Circulation - downloads & streams (eBooks/eAudiobooks/eMaterials)	15,087	14,481	13,791	12,656	13,466	14,526	13,343	13,741	12,626	12,967	14,906	16,359	14,409
Reference Questions	3,188	2,362	3,011	2,312	2,338	2,466	1,909	2,131	1,598	2,190	1,925	2,073	3,014
Programs Offered (total)	116	82	91	121	99	123	99	98	91	88	111	106	97
Adult Programs	22	25	48	52	44	53	40	33	26	24	42	32	16
YA Programs	60	29	20	24	24	29	26	32	39	32	36	43	54
Children's Programs	34	28	23	45	31	41	33	33	26	32	33	31	27
Programs Attendance (total)	2,405	929	1,353	1,648	1,621	2,114	1,357	1,587	1,374	1,139	1,747	1,241	1,099
Adult Programs Attendance	157	200	296	359	479	755	266	193	156	233	595	269	87
YA Programs Attendance	1,569	344	306	494	432	526	461	904	750	490	742	533	593
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Meeting Room Use	18	11	16	15	27	27	15	22	17	11	5	8	3
Museum Pass Use	207	111	199	154	174	140	134	133	129	124	122	107	248
Use of Library Computers	666	618	728	649	688	736	601	658	518	558	671	664	777
Materials added	442	918	945	914	831	844	687	814	527	894	1,233	1,173	735
Materials Withdrawn	1,317	659	2,418	2,968	1,221	1,124	1,926	1,353	1,191	1,536	787	1,012	752

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The total amount of items:	109,632	109,632	109,632
The total tagged overall:	69,997	58,586	42,881
The total monthly tagged:	11,411	15,705	11,587



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Materials added	10,442	11,346	10,316		
Materials Withdrawn	17,711	11,103	5,678		

Date	Children's		Front Door		Assembly		Daily Total
Saturday, July 01, 2023	126		93		16		235
Sunday, July 02, 2023	186		71		39		296
Monday, July 03, 2023	0		0		7		7
Tuesday, July 04, 2023	0		0		0		0
Wednesday, July 05, 2023	335		232		72		639
Thursday, July 06, 2023	312		184		70		566
Friday, July 07, 2023	231		162		54		447
Saturday, July 08, 2023	171		107		25		303
Sunday, July 09, 2023	181		105		38		324
Monday, July 10, 2023	356		154		97		607
Tuesday, July 11, 2023	345		215		64		624
Wednesday, July 12, 2023	377		223		62		662
Thursday, July 13, 2023	244		224		68		536
Friday, July 14, 2023	235		197		108		540
Saturday, July 15, 2023	120		75		22		217
Sunday, July 16, 2023	179		87		48		314
Monday, July 17, 2023	305		205		65		575
Tuesday, July 18, 2023	312		195		108		615
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	277		219		69		565
Thursday, July 20, 2023	246		184		97		527
Friday, July 21, 2023	243		185		68		496
Saturday, July 22, 2023	100		97		13		210
Sunday, July 23, 2023	121		93		25		239
Monday, July 24, 2023	306		219		49		574
Tuesday, July 25, 2023	357		236		87		680
Wednesday, July 26, 2023	300		216		94		610
Thursday, July 27, 2023	195		144		83		422
Friday, July 28, 2023	169		141		57		367
Saturday, July 29, 2023	144		78		29		251
Sunday, July 30, 2023	110		110		28		248
Monday, July 31, 2023	319		252		67		638
Month Total	6,902		4,703		1,729		13,334

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY EXPENDITURES									
18-Aug-23 3:50 PM									
AUGUST 2023									

		ORIG./ADJ. APPROPRRTNS.	TRANSFER	ADJUSTED BUDGET	SPENT AUGUST	SPENT JULY - AUG	BALANCE	PROJECTED 2 MONTHS	
	LIBRARY PUBLIC SERVICE								
16121									
511000	WAGES, FULL TIME	860,534.00		860,534.00	49,507.47	75,043.74	785,490.26	143,422.33	8.7%
511100	WAGES, PART TIME	247,826.00		247,826.00	17,313.25	54,238.09	193,587.91	41,304.33	21.9%
513000	OVERTIME	8,000.00		8,000.00	1,088.68	1,475.70	6,524.30	1,333.33	18.4%
514105	EYEGLOSS REIMBURSEMENT	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
514800	LONGEVITY	6,222.00		6,222.00	0.00	0.00	6,222.00	1,037.00	0.0%
16122									
530000	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	3,000.00		3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	500.00	0.0%
534100	TELEPHONE	6,500.00		6,500.00	354.74	354.74	6,145.26	1,083.33	5.5%
552900	BOOKS/PER/FILM/CD/REC	322,066.00		322,066.00	21,589.35	82,122.23	239,943.77	53,677.67	25.5%
573000	DUES	1,100.00		1,100.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	183.33	0.0%
585250	SOFTWARE	5,850.00		5,850.00	0.00	4,559.00	1,291.00	975.00	77.9%
	TOTAL LIB PUBLIC SERVC	1,461,098.00	0.00	1,461,098.00	89,853.49	217,793.50	1,243,304.50	243,516.33	14.9%
	LIBRARY TECHNICAL SERVICES								
16131									
511000	SALARIES, FULL TIME	262,351.00		262,351.00	12,063.03	24,762.16	237,588.84	43,725.17	9.4%
511100	SALARIES, PART TIME	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
514800	LONGEVITY	3,000.00		3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	500.00	0.0%
16132									
530600	COMPUTER SERVICE	87,769.00		87,769.00	0.00	65,266.00	22,503.00	14,628.17	74.4%
542200	PROCESSING SUPPLIES	12,000.00		12,000.00	264.29	264.29	11,735.71	2,000.00	2.2%
	TOTAL LIBRARY TECHNICAL S	365,120.00	0.00	365,120.00	12,327.32	90,292.45	274,827.55	60,853.33	24.7%
	LIBRARY CAPITAL								
16133									
587100	CAPITAL COMPUTER	26,500.00		26,500.00	990.00	990.00	25,510.00	4,416.67	3.7%
	TOTAL LIBRARY DEPT.	2,348,394.00	0.00	2,348,394.00	141,599.65	364,982.16	1,983,411.84	391,399.00	15.5%

Building Project Update 8/22/2023

- Design phase complete. Construction documents being drafted. Timeline for high level deliverables outlined below. Two contract timelines.
- Demolition/Site Clearing
 - Invitation for Bids (November 2023)
 - Target for Building Committee review and vote (November – December 2022)
 - Target start for work (January 2024)
- New Construction:
 - Prequalification process (October – December 2023)
 - Invitation for Bid (January – February 2024)
 - Target for Building Committee review and vote (February – March 2023)
- Temporary space solutions agreed to. Working through final plans for hours and MOAs.
- Two working groups to be formed to assist in the management and oversight for Beech Street and Benton locations. K. Keohane to serve on the Benton working group. *Looking for a Trustee to volunteer to be on the Beech Street working group.*
- Second cost reforecasting effort under way. Includes cost estimating by CHA and AM Fogarty. Estimates will be reconciled to come up with a consolidated view.
- Key drivers for costs include new energy codes (\$740,000) and new storm water management requirements (TBD). Inflation and supply considerations are also factors. Scope of work to support electrical needs has been confirmed and has increased needs and associated costs.
- Library Director working with Department Heads to complete inventory of all equipment and furniture. Will also work on inventory of books and materials for input into further planning for moves and storage. CHA to assist with public bids. Target October for this work to allow for action in late November.
- Use of Golden Bowl for laydown space approved by Select Board (July 17, 2023)
- Project to be presented to Planning Board beginning in September with Conservation Commission to follow. Note that there have been touch points and engagement with both groups during the prior project phases.
- Garden Club looking to submit a CPA proposal to make the Woodland Garden path accessible. *Would like to identify a Trustee to work with them on this effort.*
- Continue to meet with Community groups and town groups (Belmont Light, DPW, Historical Society, Veterans, Planning, Conservation, Disability Access, Shade Tree, and more)
- Naming Rights and Recognition
 - Discuss quiet study rooms and recognition for these
 - Updates on fundraising
 - Plan for recognition plaques and wall for all

EFF DATE	PO/REF2	AMOUNT	CHECK NO	VDR NAME/ITEM DESC	COMMENTS
04/06/2023		373.27	509618	AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Management of Technology - Class
04/20/2023		440.00	510329	PETER STRUZZIERO	ALA conference registration
05/11/2023		474.74	510900	ALLISON SMITH	MLA Conference & accommodation
05/11/2023		230.28	511097	PETER STRUZZIERO	Staff Apprec Week/Microsoft Office
05/18/2023		474.33	511167	ALLISON SMITH	Accommodations, travel & meals
05/25/2023		52.40	511480	GRAINNE GRIFFIN	Effective Leadership travel
05/25/2023		1,158.75	511534	LAUREN PFENDNER	ALA conference registration &
06/08/2023		546.74	512159	PETER STRUZZIERO	BCBA due, Zoom licenses, Delhi Press Periodical
06/22/2023		78.60	512650	GRAINNE GRIFFIN	Effective Leadership travel expenses
06/29/2023		46.57	513195	GRAINNE GRIFFIN	Staff retirement gift
06/29/2023		1,456.73	513232	LAUREN PFENDNER	ALA conference accommodations,
06/29/2023		352.07	513293	PETER STRUZZIERO	Conference travel
06/29/2023		368.81	513293	PETER STRUZZIERO	ALA conference meals
06/30/2023		1,334.57	513370	DEBORAH BORSUK	ALA conference registration an
06/30/2023		912.21	513370	DEBORAH BORSUK	ALA conference accommodations

List of people and committees who received the WFG document & letter:

Town Administrator - Melvin Kleckner

Planning Board - Tim Higgins

Selectmen - William Monahan

Anne Marie Mahoney

William Brownsburger

Belmont Memorial Library Director - Maureen Conners

Board of Library Trustees - Linda Atkinson

Vera Dreyer

Thomas Faulkner

Lawrence McCormick

Heli Tomford

Jil Westcott

Belmont Historical Society - Victoria Hassey

Friends of the Library - president

Conservation Commission - Tom Clancey

Shade Tree Committee - Laura Simmons

Belmont Vision 21 - Paul Solomon

Belmont Citizens Forum - Sue Bass

5/28/01

The Belmont Garden Club's Woodland Wildflower Garden

Purpose

The Woodland Wildflower Garden at the Belmont Public Library is intended to be a site of civic beauty and serenity promoting the art of gardening and the science of horticulture in a natural setting.

Description

Native and adapted trees and shrubs form a backdrop for woodland plants, creating a place of study and quiet reflection. The ever-changing display of color, form and texture will attract birds and butterflies as well as library patrons of all ages.

The site will continue to be a memorial garden with trees and benches placed in memory and tribute to garden club members and other members of the Belmont community. These memorials will be labeled as will be trees shrubs and flowers in keeping with our educational goals.

Maintenance Care and Funding

Maintenance of the garden will be the responsibility of the members of the Belmont Garden Club coordinated by the Wildflower Garden Committee. Funds are available from the club's annual budget for the maintenance and care of the garden. There is also a Wildflower Garden Fund separate from the club's general funds for special projects and to provide security in case of major expenses.

History

The special relationship between the Garden Club and the Belmont Public Library goes back a long way. Miss Lucy Luard, who was Belmont's librarian from 1916 to 1947, founded the Garden Club in 1930 and served as its first president.

In 1965 when the library moved to its present location on Concord Avenue from Pleasant Street the Belmont Garden Club was involved in the planning process regarding decisions in landscaping the property surrounding the new building. A book of evidence compiled by then Club president Ruth Ippen and Lila Street, chairman of the Club's Civic Beautification Program, reveals the Garden Clubs involvement. In the spring of 1964, upon the invitation of the Chairman of the Belmont Library Trustees and the Belmont Library Building committee, the Belmont Garden club appointed two members, Eleanor Witte and Marion Wilkins (president '61-'62), to join the discussion of plans for landscaping the grounds around the new library. A report from the Library Building Committee states how they "welcomed the interest and knowledge of the Garden Club and virtually placed the planting and landscaping detail in their hands". Two of the most significant design decisions were first, the saving of a number of large trees and second, the diversion of the brook to a path behind the building thus saving it from being enclosed in a culvert.

Recognizing that the allotted funds would not be adequate, The Belmont Garden Club Library Grounds Fund was set up chaired by Mrs. Witte and Mrs. Wilkins with a committee of five. Through fund raising events and direct donations from many of the town's groups and

clubs, \$2,500 was raised enabling the landscaping to include more unusual and costly ornamental trees and shrubs than those originally planned. One very special tree, a Dawn Redwood, was donated by the Arnold Arboretum and now stands over 60 feet tall. The Club was awarded the President's Silver Paul Revere Bowl by Sears Roebuck and Co. for best use of its \$200 beautification project grant.

Because the library budget had no provisions for landscape maintenance and the property did not come under the aegis of any other town department, the Community Planting Group of the Garden Club took on the job, weeding and pruning as well as paying for some professional services. This commitment to the town was renewed in 1991 and again in 1996.

The Woodland Wildflower Garden

In 1991 the Garden Club began discussing the idea of a wildflower garden on the library grounds. The right hand corner of the parking lot had become overgrown posing a threat to library patrons. Since there was also a problem in town with commemorative plantings (particularly trees) being placed in locations where no one took care of them, it was felt that a woodland wildflower garden located in this neglected corner could solve this problem. This area could be both educational and commemorative for the entire Belmont community.

A committee was formed, chaired by Lucille Dressler, to get the necessary approvals from: the Library Trustees, the Library Director (Deborah Mazzolini), the Shade Tree Committee, The Conservation Commission and Peter Castanino from the Highway Department. All responded with enthusiasm.

The seed money for this garden came from the family of Mrs. Karl VonSneider. Helen, president of the Garden Club from 1972-1974, was a horticulturist and had visited gardens all over the world. The sale of her extensive library of horticultural and flower arranging books raised enough money to get the project under way.

The plans for the garden were announced in the Belmont Citizen on February 10, 1992. Sinclair Weeks, a local landscape designer drew up the plans. They were put on display at the Library along with forms to be filled out for donations to the garden in memory of loved ones. Donations of over \$800 were received. Mr. Weeks helped identify trees to be removed and oversaw the preparation of the space for planting. That May trees and shrubs were planted with more following in November of that year.

The ensuing years saw much hard work on the part of the Garden Club's Wildflower Garden Committee. With the spring and fall cleanups and the planting, tending, and weeding that comes between them, hundreds of hours were donated at the Wildflower Garden to benefit the Belmont community.

In October of 1995 the Club received a \$300 grant from the Belmont Arts Council. This money was spent on bulbs and plants. Later that fall memorials (trees and benches) were added as were a variety of native perennials and shrubs. One of the benches appropriately honors Lucille Dressler as citizen of the year, an honor bestowed upon her by the Belmont Center Businessman's Association and Locatelli Realty. Also remembered through memorial plantings were past Garden Club presidents Peg Crabtree, Eleanor Witte and Bert Allen as well as the four members of the Santos family killed in a tragic automobile accident.

In April of 1997, valuing the survival of all of the plantings on the library grounds, the Garden

Club Board discussed with the town the importance of a sprinkler system. Several drought summers had taken a heavy toll on the plantings at the library especially those newly planted in the Wildflower Garden. A system of soaker hoses and sprinkler setups was not working. It was too labor intensive and time consuming. The need for an efficient and effective sprinkler system was affirmed by Cheryl Lowe of the New England Wildflower Society who walked through the garden with the committee later in the month and gave us her thoughts on our "very ambitious project". Her list of recommendations was helpful in keeping everyone working toward the same vision of a woodland/wildflower garden.

In September of 1998 a multi zoned sprinkler system was installed by Boyle Irrigation and Sprinkling, at the cost of \$2550, which was divided between the Garden Club and the town. This was just what the Wildflower Garden needed. Trees and shrubs that had been struggling started to take hold. Encouraged by this, Lucille Dressler and Nancy Dunham made plans to extend the path to enclose the final portion of the garden. This work was accomplished in the spring and summer of 1999 by committee members with some much appreciated help from the Dunham boys.

The woodland Wildflower Garden was visited the following June by many of the people attending the garden clubs garden tour "Through the Garden Gate".

In September of 1999 with the assurance that plantings would survive, some major work was done on the garden by landscape contractor Tom Monahan. Three large donated rhododendrons were transplanted to the back corner of the garden, some small shrubs were relocated within the garden and two new paths were laid out and mulched. These paths were designed to better highlight certain plantings and to provide access for maintenance. The beautiful wooden sign designed by Carolyn Sharrino, was repositioned to its intended height. Encroaching knot weed was cut back to the brook in anticipation of planting grass in that area in the spring.

At the same time the Wildflower Garden was showing its promise, the library began to make plans for solving its problems with overcrowded space and structural complications. A feasibility study was begun to consider the best course of action, renovation or rebuilding. With the possibility of major construction at the library the future of the Wildflower Garden became uncertain.

At the Belmont Garden Club board meeting in October 1999 it was announced that the finance committee had decided to recommend putting on hold any further improvements to the Wildflower Garden until plans for the library were final. The budget for the garden was cut back from \$1500 to \$800 but increased to \$1200 upon an appeal by those who felt at least that much was needed for annual maintenance.

In the summer of 2000, despite the uncertain future of the library grounds, the Wildflower committee showed great strength, enthusiasm and commitment in its efforts to maintain the garden and continue to carry out its vision and purpose. Dennis Collins, former recipient of the Belmont Garden Club's scholarship and current curator of the Mount Auburn Cemetery, visited the garden and identified many of the trees for future labeling. The Wildflower Committee supports the idea that a site plan showing current plantings and boundaries along with suggestions for completing the design of the garden is essential for current maintenance and future development.

At the Nov. 1, 2000 Board meeting it was voted to have the Wildflower Garden Committee

obtain three estimates for plans and suggestions for improvement for the garden since it became evident that plans for the Library will not be going forward in the near future.

The future of the Belmont Garden Club's Woodland Wildflower Garden is unclear, but what is certain is that it is being used and appreciated by many members of our community as a place to enjoy lunch, a book or a little stroll amid the calming wonders of nature.

Submitted 4/01 by the Wildflower Garden Committee of 2000/2001

Nancy Dunham - Chairman

Noreen Avery

Gillian Aguilar

Gertrude Averbach

Marilyn Brown

Joan Caruso

Louisa Cogswell

Lucille Dressler

Theresa MacNutt

Meta Megusar

Serena Modigliani

Nita Montero

Maureen Peck

Mary Pye

Marianna Silvestri

Lydia Silvestro

Susi Spring