

TOWN OF BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:30 pm, Room 103

AGENDA

Please note: All times are approximate and subject to change. People with an interest in being present for the discussion and vote on a particular item should arrive 15 minutes before the nominally scheduled time for that item.

7:30 Review and Possible Vote on FY 21 Operating Budget, Recreation Revolving Fund, and Golf Course Enterprise Fund - Recreation Department

8:15 Review and Possible Vote on FY 21 Operating Budget - Library

9:00 Discussion of 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Subcommittee assignments of warrant articles

9:30 New Business

The public is invited to attend however this meeting is not a public hearing so public comments will not be taken at the meeting. The Advisory Committee welcomes written comments, which will be circulated to members of the Committee if they are sent to lportscher@brooklinema.gov no later than 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting. Subcommittees of the Advisory Committee hold public hearings on any matter on which the Advisory Committee makes a recommendation to Town Meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to attend subcommittee public hearings if they wish to comment on any item under deliberation by the subcommittee.

Any member of the public may make an audio or video recording of an open session of a public meeting. They must first notify the chair and must comply with reasonable requirements regarding audio or video equipment established by the chair so as not to interfere with the meeting.

Michael Sandman, Chair 617-513-8908 msandman1943@gmail.com
Carla Benka, Vice-Chair 617-277-6102 rcvben@earthlink.net

Advisory Committee
Capital Subcommittee Report
of the **Brookline Recreation Department**
FY21 Budget FY21 Financial Plan: II 1-5; III 31-31; IV 95-104

The Capital Subcommittee of the Brookline Advisory Committee met at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday March 3rd, 2020 in Room 308 of Town Hall. In attendance were: subcommittee members Carla Benka (Chair), Amy Hummel, Harry Friedman, Fred Levitan and John Doggett; Recreation Director Leigh Jackson, Recreation staff members Gerry Kelly (Business Manager), Mike Murphy (Golf Course Superintendent), and Jon Lewitus (Assistant Recreation Director); Park and Recreation Commissioners Nancy O'Connor, John Bain, Antonia Bellalta, Wendy Sheridan, and Dan Lyons; and Deputy Town Administrator Melissa Goff.

The mission of the Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life through enriching experiences, which support the Brookline Community in developing and maintaining healthy life styles. The Recreation Department consists of three distinct segments, each of which has its own budget:

- The General Fund;
- The Recreation Revolving Fund, and;
- The Golf Course Enterprise Fund.

Director Leigh Jackson presented the department vision for FY21 with focus on serving all residents, to be the “Best” recreational program in the Northeast, by having a greater variety of creative, more age appropriate programs. The Department considers that they do a great job with children and needs to focus in the coming year to do a better job with 17-55 and up age groups. The Department plans to ‘elevate the brand’ and both enhance and refine the options presented to consumers. The Department has joined the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) certification program through the National Recreation and Park Association which provides for assessment and certification of the quality of the recreational programming. This will provide objective evidence of a claim to be the “Best” in the Northeast.

General Fund
IV-95

The General Fund has two categories or sub-programs: the Administration Sub-program which deals with the overall workings of the Department in accordance with the policies established by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Aquatics Sub-program which funds the operation of the Evelyn Kirrane Aquatics Center (but not the programs held at the Center). The FY21 budget request of \$1,147,697 for the General Fund represents about a 2.38% (\$26,714) increase from FY20. The component changes reflect increases of \$17,329 for personnel (contractual increases) and a

\$18,214 increase in utilities, the majority of which is related to the Center's three swimming pools.

Recreation Revolving Fund

IV-103

The Recreation Revolving Fund supports the activities that take place at Brookline's indoor and outdoor facilities including the Soule Center, Soule Gym, Jack Kirrane Skating Rink, Kirrane Aquatics Center, etc.

The 2020 Recreation Revolving Fund budget request of \$4,036,397 reflects a small increase of \$14,554 (0.36%) from FY20. The personnel increases (\$69,438 over FY20) reflect a new assistant aquatics director and additional part-time workers. These personnel additions have increased class capacity and reduced wait time for residents. Services have increased by \$34,108, largely due to new software expense to provide for a more customer oriented experience. Capital expenses have seen a major reduction (\$128,000 over FY20) since no new fleet additions are required this year.

Golf Enterprise Fund

IV-99/100

The 18-hole Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Course at Putterham Meadows is essentially a 'break-even' operation and, as such, generates the revenue that supports its operation. In addition, funds from the course, accounted for in the Golf Enterprise Fund, reimburse the General Fund for certain cost allocations, including fringe benefits. The revenue from the course comes primarily from rounds played, although the addition of the driving range has added significant revenue and helped increase overall demand for services and products including those at the Pro Shop.

The FY21 budget request is \$1,881,691, is a decrease of \$2,755, or 0.15%, lower than the budget for FY20. Primary drivers of the decrease include the reduction of part-time salaries which were added last year for a bad weather contingency that did not occur and a consequent lowering of intergovernmental transfers for personnel benefits (\$85,686).

The Director discussed with the Subcommittee the need for a master plan for the golf course as there is a general sense that utilization of the course could be improved and revenue increased. The market for golf across the country was observed to be flat and that other activities, focus on short game facilities, speeding up game time and whether or not the course should be 9 or 18 holes need to be reviewed and a master plan prepared to answer these and other questions. There was a general sense that the course, a great asset of the Town, should be providing more activities and programs and reaching into the community to provide more than just golf and a driving range.

Usage statistics, currently measured by "rounds of golf" were thought to be too vague. Committee members felt that, for example, measuring the number of unique users

would provide a better measure of resident usage to enable programs and activities that drive up utilization.

One item has arisen after the Subcommittee hearing which is that golf lessons were previously run off-budget and are now to be incorporated in the budget, as both a salary expense and corresponding revenue item. The Director estimates two pro golfers at a total of \$60,000 additional salary, offset with corresponding \$60,000 revenue item. This item was not discussed at the Hearing and will be offered as an amendment to the Subcommittee’s motion at the full AC meeting.

Cost Recovery and Scholarships

The Recreation Department has been taking steps to move towards full cost recovery, or as close to full cost recovery as is practicable. It will never be at 100% because of the costs of operating the swimming pool and the ice-skating rink, but, there has been some modest progress.

The Recreation Department is planning to achieve 80.5% cost recovery in FY21, detailed below.

The Department will not turn away any resident from participating in a program for financial reasons. A budget of \$135,000 is the estimated funding for financial assistance this year.

Cost Recovery

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REQUEST
REVENUES	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
General Fund	64,000	64,000	84,000
Revolving Fund	3,296,917	3,067,585	4,036,397
Golf Enterprise Fund	1,512,005	1,722,098	1,881,692
TOTAL	4,872,922	4,853,683	6,002,089
EXPENDITURES			
General Fund	1,093,346	1,147,697	1,147,697
General Fund Benefits est. (current employees)	363,053	366,549	375,438
Revolving Fund	3,300,000	3,067,585	4,036,397
Golf Enterprise Fund	1,512,005	1,722,098	1,881,692
TOTAL	6,268,403	6,312,818	7,458,306
Cost Recovery	77.7%	76.9%	80.5%
General Fund Subsidy	22.3%	23.1%	19.5%

Financial Assistance

PROGRAM	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Soule Center	\$35,000
Soule Gym	\$300
Environmental Ed Center	\$2,000
Aquatic	\$5,700
Eliot	\$13,000
Tappan	\$1,000
Outdoor Rec	\$75,000
Outdoor Athletic	\$1,000
Offsite - Out of Town Trips	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$135,000



Capital Sub-Committee Recommendations

1. The Capital Subcommittee, voting 5-0-0, recommends favorable action on the request of \$1,147,697 for the FY 21 Recreation Department operating budget.
2. The Capital Subcommittee, voting 5-0-0 recommends approval of the following authorization:

The following sums, totaling \$1,881,691 shall be appropriated into the Golf Enterprise Fund, under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 44, section 53F ½, and may be expended

under the direction of the Park and Recreation Commission, for the operation of the Golf Course:

Personnel Expenses	\$	669,557
Purchase of Services	\$	254,901
Supplies	\$	340,465
Other	\$	36,500
Utilities	\$	103,414
Capital	\$	95,800
Debt Service	\$	137,038
Interfund Transfer	\$	213,997

Total Appropriations \$ 1,881,691

3. The Capital Subcommittee, voting 5-0-0 recommends approval of the following authorization: The Park and Recreation Commission is authorized to maintain and operate under the provisions of General Laws Ch. 44 Section 53E1/2, and Ch 79 of the Acts of 2005, a revolving fund for special recreation programs and events. All receipts from said programs and events shall be credited to the fund. Annual expenditures from the Fund shall not exceed \$4,036,397.

Report on the FY21 Library Budget

The Human Services Subcommittee held a public hearing at Town Hall on the FY21 Library budget. Attending were sub-committee co-chairs Kim Smith and Harry Bohrs, committee members David-Marc Goldstein and Claire Stampfer; Library Director Sara Slymon; Library Trustee Michael Burstein, Justin Casanova-Davis, Assistant Town Administrator, and Kea Van der Ziel (TMM-15).

The FY21 Library budget is for **\$4,349,294**, and shows an increase of \$31,915 (0.73%). Details can be found in section IV of the Fiscal Plan, pages 69-74.

It should be noted that the updated and correct financial numbers (which appear below) are taken from the online Financial Plan, not the printed version. The online FY21 Financial Plan is found here-

<https://stories.opengov.com/brooklinema/published/m-xsgSftH>

Collapse All	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budget	FY21 Budget	2020-21 Variance	2020-21 Variance
▼ SALARIES	\$ 3,306,463	\$ 3,164,832	\$ 3,171,504	6,672	0.21%
PERMANENT FULL TIME	2,398,320	2,550,941	2,555,062	4,121	0.16%
SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL	24,498	17,024	17,024	0	0.00%
OVERTIME PAY	63,698	60,265	60,265	0	0.00%
OT SCHEDULED	23,268	0	0	0	0.00%
PART TIME TEMPORARY SAL	717,965	456,131	468,163	12,032	2.64%
LONGEVITY PAY	18,400	26,248	11,700	-14,548	-55.43%
EXTRA COMPENSATION	0	2,000	2,000	0	0.00%
SICK PAY BUYOUT	2,232	0	0	0	0.00%
VACATION BUYOUT	23,187	0	0	0	0.00%
A DAY BUYOUT	15,456	37,884	42,951	5,067	13.38%
CLOTHING-UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	19,439	14,339	14,339	0	0.00%
▼ SERVICES	211,888	226,075	236,861	10,786	4.77%
OFFICE EQUIP R & M	16,009	20,363	26,203	5,840	28.68%
COMPUTER SOFTWARE R & M	26,850	40,132	40,132	0	0.00%
AUDIO REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	997	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	28,700	30,153	30,153	0	0.00%
PHOTOCOPY SERVICE CONTRAC	0	1,793	1,793	0	0.00%
BUILDING CLEANING SERVICE	14,015	8,800	8,800	0	0.00%
TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH	4,847	0	0	0	0.00%
WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS	5,994	6,646	6,646	0	0.00%
POSTAGE	538	2,072	2,072	0	0.00%
PRINTING SERVICES	0	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
DELIVERY SERVICES	14,208	14,000	14,000	0	0.00%
CATALOGUING SERVICES	99,730	98,916	103,862	4,946	5.00%
BINDING SERVICES	0	1,200	1,200	0	0.00%
▼ SUPPLIES	601,135	610,764	629,122	18,358	3.01%
OFFICE SUPPLIES	28,970	33,039	33,039	0	0.00%
MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	18,657	18,000	18,900	900	5.00%
BOOKS & PERIODICALS	3	559,725	577,183	17,458	3.12%
AUDIO	27,039	0	0	0	0.00%
BOOKS	258,831	0	0	0	0.00%
DOWNLOADABLE ITEMS	112,962	0	0	0	0.00%
B&P-INTERNET	60,176	0	0	0	0.00%
VIDEO GAMES	44	0	0	0	0.00%
MICROFICHE-MICROFILM	292	0	0	0	0.00%
PERIODICALS	33,093	0	0	0	0.00%
VIDEO & DVD	61,067	0	0	0	0.00%
▼ OTHER	5,841	4,700	4,700	0	0.00%
IN STATE MILEAGE	2,672	2,200	2,200	0	0.00%
EDUCATION/TRAINING/CONFERENCES	3,169	2,500	2,500	0	0.00%
▼ UTILITIES	239,434	267,884	263,984	-3,900	-1.46%
ELECTRICITY	183,344	196,100	193,984	-2,116	-1.08%
NATURAL GAS	46,811	60,214	58,083	-2,131	-3.54%
WATER	9,278	11,570	11,917	347	3.00%
▼ BUDGETED CAPITAL	17,794	43,124	43,124	0	0.00%
PERSONAL COMPUTERS-BUD	1,076	0	0	0	0.00%
LEASED COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	16,718	18,124	18,124	0	0.00%
LEASED NETWORK EQ & SOFTWARE	0	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%
Total	\$ 4,382,554	\$ 4,317,379	\$ 4,349,295	31,916	0.74%

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

The FY21 budget presents a small increase of \$31,915. Changes in the budget this year include a \$3,900 decrease (1.46%) in Utilities, with a decrease of \$2,116 for Electricity, and a \$2,116 decrease for Natural Gas, and a small increase of \$347 for Water and Sewer. Other costs, such as Personnel, are stable. The number of FT employees remains at 42, and there are 54 part-time employees.

The Library has seen strong growth in circulation and attendance in recent years but continues to be understaffed. The 42 FT staff (down from a past high of 50) and 54 part-time staff welcomed approximately 778,752 people (an increase from 624,000 in FY18) and circulated over 1.18 million items. This success, however, comes at a cost, with low morale as librarians are required to work 2 weekends per month (back to back), and it is increasingly difficult to hire new librarians, as other neighboring communities offer as much as \$25,000 a year more in salary.

Circulation for the 3 branches remains strong. The Library also shows very strong participation in children, teen and tween programs. The Coolidge Corner branch remains the busiest branch library in the state, ahead of all of Boston's branches, with a circulation of 100,000 more than the second busiest branch (Framingham). If the Coolidge Corner branch were a main library, it would rank 50th busiest out of 252 library systems in Massachusetts (this dropped temporarily due to the renovation closure). The Putterham branch is the state's 3rd busiest branch.

Programs and outreach to the senior center, the public schools and numerous other places in Town remain popular. The Library is currently engaged in a 5 year action plan. They are doing an analysis of how they are staffed, recently moved a Chinese language collection development librarian from Main to Coolidge, and they would like to expand the number of Chinese language programs. They are also feeling pressure from the expanding children's attendance (Main, in particular). The Library is rolling out a new paging model with increased hours and dividing the workload into Adult and Children's sections, as the needs of the Children's Room was not being properly met.

The Main Library now has an ideospace/maker space area, which includes a 3-D printer and a laser cutter. They have also expanded digital resources, such as e-books and digital audiobooks through Overdrive and Hoopla, digital magazines through Flipster, digital classical music through the NAXOS music library, and popular music genres through Hoopla. Digital movies are provided through Hoopla and Kanopy.

The Library is instituting a tool library (part of the "Library of Things") at Coolidge Corner. People can sign out tools just as they would a book. No word yet as to whether this will include fun tools like chainsaws and flamethrowers.

The "Library of Things" continues to expand. They now have backpacks with camping gear, several record players (and vinyl records), and other items that all circulate, including cake pans, video games, ROKUs, board games, robotics kits, induction cooking kits, sewing machines. They also were able to acquire more telescopes in addition to the one they had at Putterham, so all branches now have circulating telescopes. And, they have an iPad assistive technology program in all 3 branches with apps that helps people with limited vision, people on the autism spectrum, etc.

The Library is also undergoing a rebranding, looking to design, among other things, a new logo and consistent visuals throughout the system, including library cards.

The Main Library is due for a renovation, expected to cost approximately \$40 Million. While the Library is hopeful of getting on the 2026 CIP, it is unlikely to get on before 2028 at the earliest. State reimbursement is expected around 30-50% of costs, and the Trustees are looking at fundraising to help offset more of the costs.

Much of the discussion before the subcommittee revolved around 2 expansion requests that were submitted but for which funding has not yet been secured.

- 1) The Library is requesting to expand hours, mainly at the Putterham branch but also at Main. Currently Putterham has the fewest hours of any Brookline branch, despite it being the 3rd busiest in the state. The catalyst for this was a petition from all 30 Town Meeting Members from Precincts 15 & 16 asking for expanded hours at Putterham. With the temporary closing of Coolidge, there was an opportunity to collect data regarding usage at all 3 locations. The proposal by Town Librarian Slymon would enable the staff to only work one weekend per month (instead of two), cover all the scheduled staff hours, and allow for “floaters”, which would help cover vacations, sick time, etc.

The cost breaks down as follows-

2 Part-Time Librarians-	\$52,167
2 Part-Time Library Assistants-	\$35,178
<u>1 Part-Time Custodian-</u>	<u>\$43,200</u>
Total-	\$130,545

The new hours proposed would be year round, and result in the following additions-

Putterham:

- Open 10-5 on Saturdays
- Expand Monday & Wednesday hours from 10 AM -1 PM (it currently opens at 1 PM, and this change would be budget neutral, as the staff is already there)

Main:

- Open 10-5 on Saturdays

The Subcommittee voted 4-0 to recommend approval of this if money can be found.

- 2) The other request is to add two part-time Children’s Librarian 1 positions, and two part-time Library Assistant 1 positions to the Children’s Room staff at the Main Library. The Children’s Room has the smallest staff of any service department, but has the most programming and is stretched beyond their capacity. The estimated total for this is \$87,345. The subcommittee did not vote on this proposal.

PERFORMANCE / WORKLOAD INDICATORS

	ACTUAL FY2018	ESTIMATE FY2019	ACTUAL FY2019	ESTIMATE FY2020	ESTIMATE FY2021
Total Circulation	1,138,338	1,166,462	1,186,491	1,213,120	1,225,251
Total Attendance	624,093	624,815	778,752	786,539	800,000
Volumes Added	30,455	25,114	34,360	36,000	38,300
Volumes Withdrawn	67,553	40,000	66,118	35,000	30,000
Interlibrary Loan:					
Borrowed	153,234	155,000	155,806	160,000	162,000
Loaned	125,285	135,000	125,378	140,000	135,000
Non-MLN items borrowed	1,079	1,100	838	1,100	1,000
Non-MLN items loaned	1,626	1,700	1,730	1,800	1,900
Items Loaned Electronically	73,803	85,611	166,162	97,597	175,000
<u>Main Library</u>					
Circulation	565,158	582,140	545,665	584,604	584,604
Attendance	318,363	321,547	433,050	324,762	437,355
Volumes Added	16,994	17,000	18,728	17,500	20,600
Volumes Withdrawn	35,195	20,000	19,839	20,000	18,000
<u>Coolidge Corner</u>					
Circulation	336,186	268,948	312,604	350,000	397,007
Attendance	223,812	240,000	254,678	164,128	318,348
Volumes Added	9,137	7,614	10,370	6,700	12,500
Withdrawn volumes	2,168	5,000	20,021	5,000	10,000
<u>Putterham</u>					
Circulation	163,491	165,000	162,060	166,650	165,000
Attendance	91,918	76,598	91,024	67,488	92,000
Volumes Added	4,324	5,000	5,262	5,000	5,500
Withdrawn volumes	2,168	5,000	5,509	8,000	5,000
<u>Children's</u>					
Circulation	332,803	333,000	325,385	335,000	333,000
Main	129,324	160,000	159,717	190,000	200,000
Coolidge	108,360	96,621	103,922	136,000	150,000
Putterham	65,119	69,026	61,745	65,000	66,000

BUDGET RECOMMENDATION:

By unanimous vote (4-0), the subcommittee voted to recommend a FY21 Library budget of **\$4,349,294**. The subcommittee also recommends (4-0) that should additional funds become available, the request to expand library hours be funded (\$130,545).



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Public Library of Brookline Hours and Staffing: Library Director Recommendations 9/26/19

In 2017 Town Meeting Members from Precincts 15 & 16 submitted a letter to the Library Board of Trustees respectfully requesting that hours at the Putterham locations be expanded to meet the growing and changing needs of the South Brookline community. The Library Director, under the instructions of the Board of Library Trustees, crafted an hours and staffing study across all three library locations to identify current need and demand. The ultimate intention of the study was to adjust the hours to reflect actual usage, and to make any staffing recommendations needed to support new hours.

The timing was fortuitous, the Coolidge Corner Library was scheduled to close at the beginning of the summer of 2018 for a much needed renovation. The closure enabled the Library Trustees to manipulate the hours at the Brookline Village and Putterham locations to exactly match the hours that Coolidge Corner was open in 2017. This created a perfect data set to compare and contrast usage at all three locations.

The first aspect of the study was to determine whether or not weekend hours were justified at Putterham in the summer and on Sundays during the school year and, given this unique opportunity, it was decided to see if additional hours were needed at Brookline Village as well. Two separate time periods were studied: June-August, and September –December. Circulation and attendance were examined. The data from Coolidge Corner in 2017 was compared to the data from Putterham and Brookline Village in 2018. We compared the statistics for the hours that Putterham would not normally be open (for example: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10-1) with the statistics for those same hours at Coolidge Corner the summer previous. We then the same for Brookline Village and Coolidge Corner. In order to make the data meaningful, we determined the average percentage of business that Putterham does compared to Brookline Village and Coolidge Corner.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

I would recommend the following expansion of hours/staffing: YEAR ROUND:

Putterham:

- Open Putterham 10-5 on Saturdays.
- No Sunday hours at Putterham
- Open year round on Monday and Wednesday from 10-1
- Leave the night hours at Putterham as they are, with Putterham open on Monday and Wednesday night until 9.

Brookline Village:

- Open summer Saturdays 10-5
- No summer hours on Sundays
- No additional changes to hours Coolidge Corner:
- No changes

BUDGET IMPACT:

After a great deal of study of the data, I have crafted a proposal that would be able to address this burgeoning need and perhaps raise morale amongst the staff, without a dramatic budget impact to the Town.

The current staffing model at the Library has all full time staff working 2 weekends per month, back to back. If we change the schedule to have all full time staff work one weekend per month, and all part time staff working a maximum of two weekends per month, we can cover all of the newly created hours (2544 staff hours annually) with existing staff PLUS the addition of two part time librarians, and two part time library assistants. The librarians and library assistants would work as floaters, a position which already exists at many larger systems (I was a floater at one time!) which would help us cover vacations, sick leave, and other unexpected absences. As I have said many times over the years, we are stretched to the maximum staffing here, and could not add hours without adding staff. I am pleased to have found an economically prudent way to accomplish this goal. We



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would also need to add two part time custodians to the staff to clean the branches on the weekends.

Cost:

Part Time Librarian x 2 = \$52,167

Part Time Library Assistant x 2= \$35,178

Part Time Custodian x 2= \$43,200

Total: \$130,545

It is important to note that the addition of the 10-1 shifts at Putterham on Monday and Wednesday would have zero budget impact as we are already fully staffed on those two shifts but do not open to the public.

June 26, 2017

Dear Brookline Board of Library Trustees,

South Brookline TMMs are delighted that the Putterham Branch Library (PBL) is recognized by Library Trustees as a Brookline treasure, crowned by the new Reading Garden with its handsome landscaping and handicap accessibility. Trustees publicly recognize that this small branch is the third most visited library branches in Massachusetts.

What is never mentioned is that, during both winter and summer hours, it is also ***the least open town library***. In summer, PBL is further limited: PBL is open for approximately eleven (11) weeks every year ("summer hours") at only 39 hours, contrasted with the Main Library (51) and Coolidge Corner (57). In an area with not a single bus schedule increase in more than a half century, and which is unavailable Sundays and holidays, accessing Coolidge Corner Library is impossible without automobiles. Thus, availability to library services anywhere is non-existent.

Yet, despite this large discrepancy, it is number 3 in the state. This fact alone indicates strongly that additional days and hours might well enhance that ranking.

It is a little-known fact that the ***PBL is our only publicly-accessible space in Pct. 16*** and one of few in all of South Brookline. As a half-century resident of South Brookline, I can attest that the PBL is the lifeblood of our geographic area. Aside from its primary function as a library, it serves multi-sociological uses, which in turn serve the quality of life in this otherwise remote, **underserved** section of Brookline.

At PBL, on any given day: Children study or meet with tutors; adults and seniors read quietly; programs such as English as Second Language, yoga, community meetings discussing neighborhood issues, significantly energize the Community Room. Given that Pct. 16 has the largest senior population still living in single family homes, PBL is the only source of social networking as seniors find themselves increasingly living alone without nearby family. The PBL is their "home away from home", one with Air Conditioning, a rarity in older homes. They have made new, and renewed old, friendships and companionships, exchanging warmth with one another and a superb staff.

Seven years ago, having surveyed precinct demographics for the Senior Center, and later for the U.S. Census Bureau, I started the South Brookline Senior Socials, recognizing there was not only an immediate need, one that was one long-neglected, but a clear future need for the already growing population demographics and anticipated growth of Hancock Village. Having met with staff from all other local venues, PBL remained the ONLY possible venue for our senior socials.

The SBSS has since had a warm and collaborative relationship with PBL staff, and has expanded its programming to include neighborhood issues. Indeed, the Library, in recognition of the

popularity and health benefits of yoga, first introduced by the SBSS seven years ago, has this year hired our yoga instructor for 16 additional weeks. Clearly the SBSS indisputably demonstrated that there is need, and enthusiastic participation in the neighborhood for enhanced services, reflecting the new perspective of library use across the country and in Brookline.

It is with these proven—and clearly anticipated—needs that the undersigned request that the Trustees initiate the budgetary steps to increase both the hours at PBL, and at least one extra day during summers.

Town Meeting Members are keenly aware that this represents a “process”, but one which must begin-- for the benefit of current and anticipated South Brookline residents.

Some of us are “end-users” of the PBL, due to our age. But we are civic-minded and are responsibly anticipating future generations. Increased population, notably at Hancock Village, but also now in our modest single family homes, as our senior population turns over, warrants a new perspective. Hancock Village expects to add what amounts to another school population in the next few years, an anticipated increase long-known by the town. We are now in “school space crisis mode”. Given the lack of available land, PBL will continue to be the only hope of shared cultural and social opportunity in South Brookline.

We understand that funding the library will require a fiscal “pipeline” that includes union negotiations. Yet, further delay in placing PBL in that “pipeline” will lead to (avoidable) crisis management down the road. Newer South Brookline families are increasingly vocal about the fact there is no publicly-accessible playground for their children (schools now use their playgrounds all day and non-school age children may not use that equipment on school days until the after school program is over.) ***Precinct 16 is the ONLY precinct in Brookline without a publicly-accessible, walkable park and playground.***

We believe it is time to start the process, and ask Trustees to prioritize the extended times requested for PBL. More hours will allow more options. We propose that more morning hours (especially for quiet senior reading time) as well as additional programming time, at least one extra night, also for more community programming and student study time. And a Saturday opening, where, at the very least, all may benefit from air conditioned reading time.

Other compelling reasons may likely be proffered, but I am satisfied in my conversations with staff and Trustees, that both are sensitive to our needs, and sympathize. Now, Town Meeting Members entrusted to represent the best interests of our joint precincts, ask the Trustees to join us in our belief that it is time to activate that compassion and understanding.

Thank you for your on-going and enthusiastic support, which I personally have found cheerful and generous, and the expressed willingness of several Trustees to give serious consideration to our needs and requests. ***It would be wonderful if we, as a town, fixed a problem before it is a***

problem. We believe that adjusting the hours and day will go far in meeting our current and anticipated library and social needs.

Respectfully signed on behalf of a unanimous Pct. 16 TMMs and Pct. 15 TMMs.

Regina Millette Frawley

TMM Pct. 16

From: KRISTINE L KNAUF [mailto:kknauf@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 9:22 PM
To: Lisa Portscher
Subject: Putterham

Hi Lisa

Please keep the extended hours of Putterham Library. I think it's important especially with limited resources in our Precinct 15.

Kristine Knauf TMM P15

From: Ira Krepchin [mailto:irakrepchin@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Lisa Portscher
Subject: Putterham library branch

AC Members:

I am writing, as a town meeting member from Precinct 15, to express my support for the funding of expanded hours for the Putterham Branch of the Public Library of Brookline. A pilot program has already demonstrated that the neighborhood will make good use of the library during the extra hours. Putterham is the only branch that serves South Brookline and is a community anchor as well as a source of books. The Library Director's plan keeps the cost low. Please support the plan!

Ira Krepchin
TMM P15

From: Allaire, Saralynn [mailto:sallaire@bu.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 10:32 AM
To: Lisa Portscher
Subject: Expanded hours at putterham library

Hello Lisa,

Please forward this message to the members of the advisory committee for their consideration at Tuesday's meeting.

My husband Alan and I wish to express our strong support for expanding the hours at the putterham library. A study done by the library showed that expanded hours are needed. And that is just with the current population.

As you know, the additions to Hancock Village which are underway will greatly expand the number of residents living in this area. This includes a great large number of children who are heavy users of the library. Even parents who don't speak English use the library for English classes and so forth.

In addition, it should be kept in mind that during the summer the hours contract so that the library is closed for 2 and 1/2 days between Friday and Monday afternoon. This is really at the service to people who work and have no access to the library except during the weekend.

The putterham library also serves the large population of seniors who live in South Brookline. It is difficult for seniors to go to the senior center in North Brookline. Those who drive find it difficult to park, and it's very difficult for those who don't drive to get there cause of the general lack of public transportation. The putterham library therefore serves as a senior center South for many seniors. My husband and I both attend yoga classes at held at the community room of the library and benefit greatly from them. Other senior activities are a senior meet up and movies on Wednesdays. However the community room at the library is so busy that it can be difficult to get hours necessary for activities. Expanded hours would increase the amount of time the community room is available.

In regards to the cost, I've read the BFAC report and understand the concerns. However, I also see on the latest select board meeting an agenda item in which \$150,000 is being requested for a consultant to plan an urban Forest master plan for Brookline. Brookline already has a town arborist, which is very unusual for a community.

If the town is so strapped for money, shouldn't the town arborist be charged with this Duty rather than spending additional money for a Consultant? It seems to me that spending funds on expanding the hours at putterham would be a much wiser use of money.

Saralynn Allaire. TMM Precinct 16
Alan Allaire

From: Judith <judith.leichtner@gmail.com>
Date: March 9, 2020 at 11:31:56 AM EDT
To: Saralynn Allaire <gmsallaire@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: [sbna-discuss] Fwd: FW: Expanded hours at putterham library

Thank you for writing this. I added my name and support to your letter and sent it to Lisa.

Judi

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 9, 2020, at 10:39 AM, Saralynn Allaire <gmsallaire@gmail.com> wrote:

hello all. letters supporting expanded hours at putterham library need to be sent today by noon. feel free to forward my letter in your name, use parts of it, etc. to LISA PORTSCHER

From: Jason Xin [mailto:fd8326032@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Lisa Portscher
Subject: Fwd: [sbna-discuss] Fwd: FW: Expanded hours at putterham library

Lisa,

My name is Jia Xin living by Baker school. I absolutely concur with Saralynn's suggestion to expand hours on the library branch. Your favorable decision is appreciated.

Respectfully
Jia Xin

-----Original Message-----

From: David Prerau [mailto:prerau@rcn.com]
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 11:11 AM
To: Lisa Portscher
Subject: Putterham Library extended hours

As Seniors living in South Brookline, we would like to express our strong support for extending the hours at Putterham Library.

David and Gail Prerau

-----Original Message-----

From: Deborah Dong [mailto:debdong@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Lisa Portscher
Cc: Charles A. Dal Corobbo
Subject: Putterham Library - expanded hours

Hi Lisa,

We are writing in support of extended hours at the Putterham Library. Our understanding is that a recent study showed that extended hours are needed there. Certainly with the high number of students in South Brookline, especially young ones, and with little public transportation to get children to the other branches, additional hours here are greatly needed. Many of the senior citizens in the South Brookline area depend on the Putterham library because of the wonderful program run there, and also because of limited mobility and transportation options. And as busy professionals who often can't make it to Putterham during its limited hours outside of standard business hours (especially during its very limited summer hours), we would happily visit Putterham more frequently and for longer visits. It is also a wonderful gathering place to see our neighbors.

We understand that there are budgetary constraints, but believe that investing in libraries is one of the best ways to invest in the future of Brookline. We hope that the appropriate committees will favorably consider and implement extended hours for Putterham.

Best regards,

Deborah Dong
Charles Dal Corobbo
267 Beverly Rd

From: Cynthia Tow McPherson [mailto:cynthiatow@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Lisa Portscher
Subject: Putterham Library

Dear Lisa,

I've missed the noon deadline, but I want to express how important the Putterham Library is to our community and how much greater access in the form of expanded hours mean. Personally, I take my 8 yr old and 4 yr old to the library as much as possible and they just don't understand when the library is closed during "daylight hours" as my four year old would say.

Thanks!
Cynthia

From: Jane Flanagan [mailto:jmflanagan7@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Lisa Portscher
Cc: Michael Burstein; Eileen Berger; Abby Coffin; jason cunningham; Lisa Cunningham; Jane Flanagan; Barbara Gutman; John L. Hall; Benedicte; Janice Kahn; Ira Krepchin; Rich Nangle; David Pearlman; Jim Rourke; Kea van der Ziel; Laura Baines-Walsh; Adrienne Bowman; Scott Gladstone; Michael Harrington; Alisa Jonas; Judith; Puja Mehta; nathan; Tim Sullivan; Carolyn Thall
Subject: Expanded hours at Putterham Library

March 9, 2020

To: Members of the Advisory Committee
From: TMMs in Precincts 15 &16

We, the Town Meeting Members in Precincts 15 & 16 respectfully request the Advisory Committee consider expanding the hours of the Putterham Library. As you know, there was a pilot program that demonstrated the neighborhood's need for the expanded hours. We are aware that there are budgetary constraints that may impact this decision, but we are also aware that this item at minimal cost and may as a result, may be feasible. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Thank you,

Eileen Berger
Abby Coffin
Lisa Cunningham
Jason Cunningham
Jane Flanagan
Barbara Gutman
John Hall
Benedicte Hallowell

Janice Kahn
Kris Knauf
Ira Krepchin
Richard Nangle
David Pearlman
Jim Rourke
Kea van der Ziel
Laura Baines-Walsh

Adrienne Bowman
Scott Gladstone
Michael Harrington
Alisa Jonas
Judith Leichtner
Puja Mehta
Nathan Shpritz
Tim Sullivan
Carolyn Thall