



Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

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CONTACT

Cyndi Roy Gonzalez
croygonzalez@needhamma.gov
781-675-0394 (cell)

Needham Welcomes Kim Hewitt as New Director of the Needham Free Public Library

NEEDHAM – Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – The Town of Needham this week welcomed Kim Hewitt as the new director of the Needham Free Public Library. Hewitt takes over the position from Ann MacFate, who retired last week after 65 years with the library.

Hewitt comes to Needham from Waltham Public Library, where she served as the Circulation Department Head since 2018. There, she managed the library's daily operations and developed the institution's long-term plans, policies, and goals. Hewitt also stewarded the library through the Covid-19 pandemic and launched the first Bus Pass Program in a Massachusetts public library. Hewitt also participated as a member of the library's Equity Committee.

"We're so happy to welcome Kim to the Town of Needham," said Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. "With her experience and her enthusiasm for all that libraries can offer, I am confident she will lead the Needham Free Library to continued success as a place residents and visitors of all ages can enjoy."

Prior to her work in Waltham, Hewitt worked for the Newton Free Library in various roles, helping to manage one of the busiest libraries in Massachusetts. She managed the city-wide "Newton Talks" project, an oral history project featuring Newton's veterans, immigrants, and long-term residents.

"I am so excited to join the team of the Needham Free Public Library," Hewitt said. "It's an incredibly beautiful and vibrant institution and is clearly treasured by the community. I look forward to the work ahead and continuing to make the library an evolving institution that meets the needs of its patrons and visitors."

Hewitt's passion for libraries is further evidenced by her election this year to Vice President/President-elect of the Massachusetts Library Association.

Hewitt has a M.S. in Library & Information Science from Simmons College and a B.A. in American Studies from UMass Boston. She currently lives in Waltham with her partner, Alan, and their dog Julep.

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