

**Sturgis Library Archives
Town and Local History Collection**

Barnstable Town Library Committee Records

MS. 95

Extent: 3 clamshell boxes

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of Barnstable Town Library Committee agendas, meeting minutes, Town budget submissions, library surveys, library studies, and related records from 1961 to 2016.

Historical and Biographical Information: The Library Directors and Board members of the seven village libraries often met informally over the years to discuss library service to the Town and collaborate on various projects and programs. In the 1960s the Town began to appropriate some monies to these independent and privately funded libraries, mostly for books but also for other items. At this time the awarding of State Aid monies to the libraries became problematic, and the need for some library oversight became evident. In 1966 a *Library Survey Committee* was appointed by the Town Moderator, and this Committee met to formally review library services. Though the term "Town Library Committee" was used on and off from 1961-1966, the Town Library Committee was not officially established by the Town of Barnstable until a formal report was issued in January, 1967, and a number of recommendations were made.

The current (2009) code governing the Town Library Committee reads: Administrative Code § 241-25 *There shall be a Town Library Committee consisting of 14 members, two from each library, to be composed of individuals nominated by the boards of each of the seven libraries...to be the body which the Town interacts with for the purpose of the Town's financial assistance to the libraries of the Town.* The committee is currently made up of two Trustees and the Library Director from each of the seven libraries. Meetings are held monthly as needed, on a rotating basis at the libraries.

Over the years there have been several studies to evaluate the efficiency of the seven-library system, and to determine if there are ways to more closely collaborate and perhaps share some of the costs of service to the villages and Town.

The main charge of the Committee has been to equitably distribute Town funds to the libraries. Since 2003 several funding formulas have been proposed. In 2009, Town funding represented an average of approximately 50% of the total of the libraries' annual budgets – with some libraries receiving a higher or lower percentage of their funding. The establishment of an equitable funding formula has been an ongoing task of the Committee, with a major study being completed in 2004. In 2009 the Committee established a new funding formula with a number of criteria, including circulation, population, programming, special funding, and other factors. The new funding formula was approved in May of 2009, and went into effect, briefly, in July of 2009. There was

concern that the formula jeopardized some of the village libraries, and the Committee looked at ways to remedy this. In 2010 the Committee voted to apply the formula to new monies only, which retained the funding criteria but resulted in no loss of funding for any of the libraries. As of 2013, that funding process was in place and working successfully.

In 2015/16, the Town Library Committee disbanded, since their charge of equitably distributing Town funds was no longer needed.

Shortly afterwards, the Town and Libraries did away with the funding formula altogether and shifted to a straight percentage increase or decrease for all libraries. If the Town increased or decreased funding by a certain percentage, each library's Town grant would be increased or decreased by that percentage.

Related Material: Some duplicate records of the Town Library Committee and unique records of the Cape Cod libraries from 1951-1977 are held in the collections of the Nickerson Room at the Cape Cod Community College. The bulk of the records consist of clippings from local publications related to library services.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library archives for publication.

Acquisition: The Town Library Committee voted to transfer their records to the Sturgis Library archives in 2007.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, December 2009.

Contents:

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Box 2

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Folder 5	2000
Folder 6	2001

Folder 7 2002

Box 3

Folder 1 2003
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Folder 3 2005
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