

Candidate's Statement
Library Trustee At-Large 2024

Denise Bisailon
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I am running for the position of Library Trustee (at-large Hamilton-Wenham). I grew up on the North Shore and have lived in Hamilton (39 years) with my spouse and daughter. I have had the privilege of being involved in community organizations such as an elected member of the School Committee for Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District and as a member and President of the Friends Board of the Hamilton-Wenham Public Library.

I have worked in education and health care for over forty years. Now retired, my professional background includes serving as Executive Director of Health Professions at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, New Hampshire. I also held administrative and faculty positions at a number of institutions including the University of New England (Portland, Maine), Harvard School of Public Health (Boston, MA), Harvard Risk Management Foundation (Cambridge).

I received a doctorate in education and human development from Harvard University, and a BA in Psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. During my career, I have focused on creating experiential educational programs for future health care leaders to become successful, ethical professionals. My research areas include learning/teaching and assessment technologies (simulation, online, multimedia), case-based curricula, and teacher training in moral reasoning through dilemma discussions.

Libraries have been very important to me since I received my first library card in elementary school. As a child, the library was a place of discovery and wonder. Then, as a teen and young adult, it was a welcoming place of great knowledge where I did research and studied with friends. Personally and professionally, I have enjoyed libraries' evolution into multifaceted institutions with programs, workshops, book groups, clubs, concerts, speakers, museum passes, and much more. They have become technology centers offering access to computers, WiFi, online services, and 3-D printing. And all of these resources are free to the public. This makes libraries critical for democracy. Libraries offer access to information that enable citizens to make knowledgeable decisions.

The Hamilton-Wenham Public Library is exemplary of what a great library can be for a community; providing resources and services that address our civic and social needs. I believe my skill set and experience would be valuable additions and support the mission of the library. It would be an honor to help bring the best possible library services to the Hamilton-Wenham community.