Get to Know Series:

BEALS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Board of Trustees

Ron Muse - Chairman

Profession: Special Education Teacher at Waterford School in Gardner, MA
Subcommittees: None currently. Previously on Library Director Evalution Subcommittee and Mission Statement Subcommittee
What does the BML mean to you?: The Beals is a place where all citizens can explore their interests through books, learn through our programs, and celebrate through our events. I believe the Beals is finally accessible to all and will continue to provide a physical location for residents of all ages to explore their interests and come together as a community.
What made you want to serve?: The Library was an integral part of mine, and my children's, lives. I wanted to help insure that the Library would continue to be a prominent part of Winchendon.
What would you want someone who is looking to serve as a Trustee to know?: I would want any potential Trustee to know what a great collection of people are serving on the Board. In addition, our Library Director and Staff are committed professionals who are a pleasure to work with. I would want any candidate to know we still face many challenges to fully realize our vision of the Library. As a Board, we are committed to opening a Children's Library, and I believe any potential Trustee should share this belief.

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BEALS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Board of Trustees

Cindy Darcy - Vice Chair

Profession: 4th Grade Teacher, Toy Town Elementary & Adjunct Professor, MWCC
Subcommittees: Toy Town Tree Festival Subcommittee
What does the BML mean to you?: The Beals Memorial Library is a cornerstone of our community. For so many, it is a sanctuary of knowledge and a place of learning that protects our right to know and allows freedom of thought and expression. Beals is a barrier-free library that provides a safe, welcoming, and social environment.
What made you want to serve?: So many years ago, I wanted to become a Trustee because of the fond memories from my time growing up in our town. I went away to college and worked out of state for many years. After coming back home, there was a need for Trustees. I wanted to be a part of nurturing the environment that I was so fond of while also helping to bring our library, and all it had to offer, into the new century.
What would you want someone who is looking to serve as a Trustee to know?: My hope for a new Trustee is one who works well on a team, is a leader, is creative, and is a forward thinker.

Get to Know Series:

BEALS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Board of Trustees

Suzanne Rader - Secretary

Profession: Substitue Teacher
Subcommittees: None currently.
What does the BML mean to you?: The Beals Memorial Library means fun books to read and many fun activities for all ages to enjoy. My children have many fond memories of programs and events that enriched their lives and helped to shape the adults they have become.
What made you want to serve?: When I was approached about becoming a Trustee, there were no other Trustees with school aged children. So I knew I should become the children's advocate.
What would you want someone who is looking to serve as a Trustee to know?: This Board truly believes in this grand building and in its growth for future generations.

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BEALS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Board of Trustees

Manuel King - Library Director

Profession: Librarian
Subcommittees: Toy Town Tree Festival Subcommittee and Long Range Planning/Capital Planning Subcommittee
What does the BML mean to you?: To me, the Beals is the heart of our community. The support the Library receives from everyone I meet in Winchendon proves that to me. It is the one, truly public place in town that welcomes all, and where all can gather for whatever reason without judgement, and for free.
What would you want someone who is looking to serve as a Trustee to know?: I would want anyone interested in becoming a Trustee to know that they are part of a team of folks dedicated to Library advocacy. As a member of the team, they should want the Library to not only succeed, but to thrive in a way that benefits the entire community. I would also want them to know that we are looking for a skill set that adds to, and compliments, the existing Board members effectiveness in governing the Library and promoting its services.

Get to Know Series:

BEALS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Board of Trustees

Jane LaPointe

Profession: Retired Management Consultant and School Librarian
Subcommittees: Long Range Planning/Capital Planning Subcommittee and Library Director Evaluation Subcommittee
What does the BML mean to you?: I cannot imagine a town without a public library. A place to go on your own or with famil or friends, in person and digitally. A place to learn, explore, engage, ask questions, find answers, and even have fun. A place where everyone is welcome – now made all the easier with the new entrance and elevator. I grew up using the BML and expanding my love of reading across different genres of books. Today, our Library can help people of all ages continue to grow and expand their interests and connections. I belive that libraries are a critivcal community resource.
What made you want to serve?: I originally joined to help with the transition to a new library director, and beacause I saw an opportunity for synergy among various town and community initiatives. I stay involved because I am encouraged by the dedication of the people who serve as Trustees, Friends, and Staff as we work together to broaden the relevance of the Library in the lives of our commmunity and expand community engagement with the Library. My long-standing interest in libraries and my related work experience makes this a good fit for me.
What would you want someone who is looking to serve as a Trustee to know?: If you were choosing a tem, this a good one. We each have differnet, but complimentary, skills and interests that we bring to our varied responsibilities as Trustees. Our meetings and use of our time are thoughtful and well-placed and well-paced. I would encourage anyone who is considering this opportunity to learn more about the responsibilities of a library trustee, talk with the Library Director, and with current Trustees. Also, review our recently approved Long Range Strategic Plan for the BML to see what interests you, where you might like to focus and make a difference – something that feels right and rewarding to you.

Get to Know Series:

BEALS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Board of Trustees

Robert Courtemanche

Profession: AVP, Credit Officer of Rollstone Bank & Trust
Subcommittees: Toy Town Tree Festival Subcommittee and Long Range Planning/Capital Planning Subcommittee
What does the BML mean to you?: The Beals is a place where the community can gather and share ideas and stories within a welcoming environment. The Library is place for the people of Winchendon to come together and learn, collectively. It is truly a central hub throughout the community; a location that can tie everyone to everything within our town.
What made you want to serve?: I remember coming to the Library as a child and admiring the building and what it stood for. I wanted to be able to help preserve this magnificent building, while helping to make it accessible to all. I also wanted to bring a Millenials perspective to the Board, and help make the decisions that will ensure the Library is a viable community resource for the future.
What would you want someone who is looking to serve as a Trustee to know?: Everyone that volunteers on this Board, and the staff that works for the Library, really has the best interest of the Library in mind. We continue to move forward with planning on our future Children's Library and to continue to bring the Library into a community location that can be shared by all. Any future Trustee will need to share in the vision that the Library of the future is more than just books, but a place for the community to come and grow together.

Get to Know Series:

BEALS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Board of Trustees

Caela Provost

Profession: Manager of Short-Term Global Propgrams & Study Abroad Advisor at Suffolk University
Writer (The Chronicles of Higher Education, Irish Central, and Enterprise Ireland) and Author of YA Novel *Somoene Else's Shoes*
Subcommittees: None yet, *but* I'm a joiner, so I am sure I'll be involved in a few very soon!
What does the BML mean to you?: Gowing up, I saw the Library as a space where adventure lived: where I could stand in the courtroom where Atticus Finch defended Tom Robinson, escape the Overlook Hotel with Danny Torrance, ride the 1856 Orphan Train to the west with Mary Frances, and find my agency and independence with Ella of Frell. As an adult, I have preserved the same connection to the stories living in the Library, and have come to know the Beals Memorial Library as a champion of youth and adult literacy, and a meeting place for educational and community events. There's no happier place for a lover of literature!
What made you want to serve?: The first time I truly felt a genuine and memorable connection to my town was on the first of many trips from Toy Town Elementary School to the Beals Memorial Library with my classmates in Miss Murray's 4th grade class. Those trips to the library - listening to the tales of town history, talking about the basics of scholarly research, and learning about responsibility and respect via the borrowing and caring for books - helped to shape me into the person I am today: a writer, international educator, and lifelong learner. Looking back, I see now that the Library gave me pages and pages from which to learn and grow, and I am thrilled that I will have the opportunity to begin repaying that kindness by advocationg for and serving the Library, and by extention the Winchendon community, as a Trustee.
Tell us an interesting fact about you!: In 2012, I met and interviewed the late Northern Irish poet, novelist, and musician Ciaran Carson after attending a poetry reading as a graduate student at the University of Limerick in Ireland. After the offical reading, I was invited to my poetry professor's home to share a pint of Guinness with the poet and talk more about his work. After learning that I knew how to play the Irish tin whistle, he invited me to play some traditional Irish tunes with him and few of his friends to end the evening!