



Town of Needham, Massachusetts

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Needham Appoints Robert MacLean as New Director **of the Needham Free Public Library**

NEEDHAM – Monday, April 8, 2024 – The Town of Needham has announced the appointment of Robert MacLean as the new director of the Needham Free Public Library. MacLean will begin his new position on April 22.

MacLean comes to Needham from Weymouth Public Libraries, where he served as the Director of Library Services since 2010. There, he managed the libraries' daily operations and led a team of 29 staff from across five departments to run two library buildings. He developed the institution's long-term plans, policies, and goals, stewarded the library through the COVID-19 pandemic, and was involved in creating and supporting the newly established Weymouth Libraries Foundation. Prior to his work in Weymouth, MacLean served as Library Director in the Town of Mendon for a year.

"On behalf of the Needham Library Board of Trustees, I am happy to announce the appointment of Rob MacLean as the new director of the Needham Free Public Library," said Jay Fialkov, Chair, Library Board of Trustees. "His experience in Weymouth as library director for fourteen years and as a member and chair of their Library Board of Trustees for twelve years prior, make him uniquely suited for this position. The Board looks forward to working with him as we continue to chart a course of innovation and excellence as we serve the evolving needs of our community."

"We're delighted to have Rob join the Town to serve as our new Library Director," said Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. "With a passion for literacy and a vision for the future of our library, Rob embodies the values and spirit of Needham. We are confident that he will lead our library into a new chapter of growth, innovation, and service excellence, enriching the lives of residents of all ages for years to come."

MacLean's passion for libraries is further evidenced as he served as President of the Old Colony Library Network from 2022-2023, as well as a judge for several Massachusetts Center for the Book award programs from 2018-2019. He was also a member and past chair of the Weymouth Library Board of

Trustees from 1998 to 2010. MacLean has a Master of Library and Information Science from Simmons College and a Bachelor of Arts in English, American Literature and Language from Harvard College.

"I am excited to start my position as the new director of the Needham Free Public Library," MacLean said. "Libraries are more than just buildings filled with books; they are vibrant hubs of knowledge, connection, and discovery. I am eager to build upon the great work being done by the team at the library and I look forward to continuing to foster an environment where patrons feel welcome, where curiosity is celebrated, and where lifelong learning thrives."

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