

-----PRESS RELEASE-----

WELCOMING BACK A NEW OLD FRIEND TO THE NORTH KINGSTOWN LIBRARY

The North Kingstown Free Library announced the appointment of Susan Moreland Straub as the new town Library Director to replace Cyndi Desrochers who is retiring this month after nine years at the helm. Straub, who starts in the position on 9/14/20, comes to North Kingstown after a stint as Executive Director of Ocean State Libraries (OSL), the consortium of all public libraries in the state of Rhode Island. Prior to working at OSL, she started at the North Kingstown Free Library in 1998 and rose to the level of Deputy Director over the next 18 years.

"I'm so glad to be back at the North Kingstown Free Library," said Straub. "I have a deep emotional attachment to the library, its patrons, its staff, and the community of North Kingstown and I look forward to once again working at one of the best libraries in the state of Rhode Island."

Lori Vernon, the chair of the library board, said, "We were sorry to lose Susan in 2016, but this is working out great. We get a longtime staff member to run the library, but she has been outside our building for a few years, learning how things work in other places and getting a perspective on best practices. Now we get the benefit of her experience and credentials in a package we already love."

While the current focus of the library is providing services during the pandemic, Straub said that she plans to continue to improve the library in several different ways, including upgrading the facilities to provide additional meeting spaces and improving services for bring your own device (BYOD) library users. "We already have something special here at the library, but there are so many ways that we can take advantage of community support and the enthusiasm of the Friends group to do even more, providing innovative services for our patrons now and into the future."

Vernon pointed out that the staff is currently working flat-out to satisfy customer requests for its curbside pickup service, so the library still fills an important role in our town despite the closures that have been necessary during this time. She said the library will be experimenting with limited reopening starting September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Straub agreed that the pandemic presents new challenges, but also new opportunities. "There is a lot happening at the library and I am honored to lead this important town institution through current challenges and into a bright future."