

4/15/2022

Dear Ms. Piantigini,

My name is Michael Smith and I am writing to express interest in serving as a member of the Somerville Public Library Board of Trustees, as advertised on the City of Somerville's website.

I have lived in Somerville for approximately 8 years and I am currently looking to get involved in local community service, so I was very excited to see that the Board of Trustees is seeking new members. Since childhood I have been drawn to public libraries and the unique function that they serve in our society. As an avid reader and dedicated lifelong learner, the free access to books and media have always been a major draw for me (lately I have been diving into the Great Courses Catalog via Kanopy), but I recognize that public libraries are uniquely positioned to provide a myriad of social, economic, and educational services. I always appreciate the friendly staff and welcoming atmosphere of the Somerville Central Library; my partner and I consider it one of the highlights of the neighborhood!

Throughout my career I have been dedicated to public service, with a focus on disability and housing advocacy. I currently manage the Prevailing Wage Program for the MA Department of Labor Standards, so I also have experience with public procurement, program management, and administrative/regulatory law. I also hold a Masters Degree in Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from UMass Boston. I feel that my professional and academic background in public administration and human services, as well as my strong analytic and communication skills, would be an asset to the Somerville Public Library.

I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss the role and functions of the Board of Trustees. I am happy to provide a resume and personal/professional references upon request.

Thank you for considering my candidacy for membership. I am very excited by the prospect of serving an institution that plays such a crucial role in the social infrastructure of my community!

Best,

Michael Smith