



413-624-2377

griswold@colrain-ma.gov

colrain-ma.gov/GML

To: Griswold Memorial Library Board of Trustees, griswoldmemorialtrustees@gmail.com
CC: Town of Colrain Select Board, bos@colrain-ma.gov and Friends of the Griswold Memorial Library, eweeks@umass.edu

June 9, 2025

Dear Library Trustees:

It is with deep respect and sincere appreciation that I hereby submit my resignation as Library Director of the Griswold Memorial Library, effective no later than August 15, 2025. This decision comes as I prepare to fully commit to my research regarding library services for people impacted by incarceration and to pursue a doctoral degree at Simmons University beginning this fall.

It has been a privilege to serve the Town of Colrain and to be a steward of a library with a legacy stretching back to 1908. Since joining the library in 2019, I have had the privilege of working alongside you through trials and triumphs, from navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and moments of political tension, to launching new programs and services such as the Carol Purington Poetry Collective, William Apess Day, and the StoryWalk at Pine Hill Orchards. I will always treasure my memories of working in the library, providing outreach at the transfer station and the Franklin County Jail, and having the great honor of accepting the National Medal for Library and Museum Services on the library's behalf in Washington, D.C.

Our work on the library's strategic plan, feasibility study, preservation assessment, and governance will help to ensure that the progress we have made so far—towards improving access to our building and collections, amplifying and digitizing local history, helping people to learn new skills, and fostering a culture where everyone feels safe and welcome—continues without interruption.

I would be happy to help with onboarding new leadership or be a resource when needed, as I will continue to live in the area. I've also drafted a press release to help communicate this change in leadership with our community. Working with you and serving the people of Colrain has been one of the best and most interesting chapters of my life. Thank you for putting your trust in me to lead you to this moment and into the future.

With gratitude and respect,

Chelsea Jordan-Makely