

Hartland Library Strategic Planning Steering Committee Meeting
April 10, 2015 - 10:00am, Hartland Library Community Room

Attending: Kristi Clemens, Sarah Stewart Taylor, Theresa Gregory, Amy Wisehart, Laura Bergstresser, Fred Lee

Initial Agenda:

1. Additions to the agenda
2. Approve minutes from the March meeting
3. Update -- focus group session (and select board update)
4. Identify priorities
5. Review Library Service Responses
6. Other community input/gaps?
7. Timeline for drafting the plan
8. Next steps, next meeting

Notes on meeting

1. ADDITIONS:

- AW needs to add a Select Board update under 3

2. Minutes from March meeting were approved.

- SST moves, TG seconds, approved.

3. Updates:

- We've gotten most of our feedback.
- Many ideas were generated, though none have been prioritized.
- There were lots of ideas, but what does the community really want?
 - How can we measure what the community really ones?
 - 1 - Give patrons stickers to put on posters next to their favorite ideas.
 - 2 - Online survey?
 - We don't worry about people stuffing the ballot box.
- AW provided us with notes from the Task Force meeting of 3/25 (see addendum)
- AW report on selectboard conversation.
 - Gordon Richardson asks about parking - bids for the lot are being considered
 - Not a ton of input from board
 - (there were new members and a new dynamic the night AW went).
 - More audiobooks. Fix the light at the road.
 - Some people aren't aware of what happens at the library, need more marketing.
 - How does the library fit into the town plan?
- AW is going to HCA meeting on Monday night.

4. Identify Priorities

- One person should draft the final document
- Should we include everything and then whittle down, or whittle down and then write?
We will have a subgroup meet and separate the ideas into groups.
- Bob Stacy should be given feedback on ideas that are up to the town - not the library.

5. Review Library Service Responses (See addendum)

- They struggled with these, it was hard to get them to choose just a few
- People really seem to want to create things.
- Technological literacy did not come up, but it remains a struggle.
could there be cross-generational tech help with local kids?

Responses the Focus Group identified as most important:

7 Express Creativity

5 Create Young Readers x5 (Seen as important, but no ideas for how)

13 To inspire and cultivate curiosity x3

9 Know your community

2 Build successful enterprises/with 11 make career choices

12,13,16 for Critical thinking and learning

11/7 Make career choices and express creativity

14 stimulate imagination x2

6. Other community input/gaps

- AW to HCA meeting 4/13
- Make an online survey to collect the last of the input from people who might have been missed earlier.

7. Timeline for Drafting the Plan

- A draft needs to be presented to the library board in September (9/20 meeting)
- Put out a general survey next week
- Sort the tasks soon (May 15th)
- June 5th - meeting to discuss writing
- Should be ready to draft after June 5th
- Meet July 10th to look at draft

8. Next steps, next meeting.

- Some of us will meet May 15th to sort responses.

Discussion by the Strategic Planning Team in red.

Library, first word (Meeting 1)

Community

Positive

Growth

Family

Books

Free access

Learning

Diverse so many things

Pride

Connecting to the world

Resources, digital and others

Life

Possibilities

Knowledge

Creativity

Expansion

I'd like to ___ at the library (Meeting 2)

Have classes on computing like how to use Facebook

Cooperate with Osher for courses

Socialize

Have more space

Do outreach (individual who would like to take library outreach on as a project)

Bake in a wood-fired oven - this idea was discussed as being near the library but not a library thing (town land) - but otherwise desirable.

Find a better spot for the Herb Ferris sculpture (x2) (He knows about it and will pick it up)

Tidy up the entry room, booksale

Work for socialization— plug computer in AND be with other people; co-working spaces?

Create

Educate the community

Do nothing, space out, relax

Experience calm

Get away from my family

Hide

See lots of families

Get vegetables delivered

Check out a piece of art

Put solar on the back roof

See more teenagers

Check out golf discs for the course here **(coordinate with Rec Center)**

Key themes for the community from Meeting 1

Connected community with many ways to communicate
Stable governance, good in disasters
Local sustainability expressed in gardens and food
Natural beauty; and the oldest nature club in Vermont
Is there enough diversity?

Library service responses

Steering Committee reviewed feedback from the first Task Force meeting and the Library Staff Retreat

Narrowed list of 18 to 8

Highest priorities, 4: 5, 11, 13 and 16

Task Force may want to consider all 18, the recommended 4 or the generous 8

(The task force struggled with these, it was hard to get them to chose just a few)

8 Library Service Responses, starred the top 4

2 - Build Successful Enterprises

5 - Create Young Readers*

6 - Discover Your Roots

9 - Know Your Community

11 - Make Career Choices*

13 - Satisfy Curiosity*

16 - Find, Evaluate, and Use Info*

17 - Visit a Comfortable Place

Hartland PL Mission:

The Hartland Public Library is a focal point of the community, a gathering place for people of all ages. The purpose of the library is to provide free access to materials, resources, and programs for the educational, recreational, and informational needs of the community.

4 Library Services Responses

Create Young Readers

Make Career Choices

Satisfy Curiosity

Find, Evaluate and Use Information

1. Review of Create Young Readers

Early literacy. (This was very popular)

Children from birth to age five will have programs and services designed to ensure that they will enter school ready to learn to read, write, and listen.

2. Make Career Choices (There was less enthusiasm about this)

Job and career development.

Adults and teens will have the skills and resources they need to identify career opportunities that suit their individual strengths and interests.

Note: steering committee suggested this Response as a way to reach out to residents 20 - 45

3. Satisfy Curiosity

Lifelong learning.

Residents will have the resources they need to explore topics of personal interest and continue to learn throughout their lives.

4. Find, Evaluate and Use Information

Information fluency.

Residents will know when they need information to resolve an issue or answer a question and will have the skills to search for, locate, evaluate, and effectively use information to meet their needs.

Group discussion: prioritize

20 minutes, groups of 2-3

Take pencil and paper and review the full list. Do you agree with the 4 chosen?

Be ready to report back to the whole group

What are the 3 most important Library Service Responses for the Hartland Public Library Report **(The bold ones are the ones the group was most enthusiastic about)**

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Populations we're missing?

Underserved populations in Hartland: 20-42 year olds underrepresented

Kids who come here for supervision, in loco parentis, holding pen **(computer use cannot be supervised because the library doesn't have the staff for it).**

People hampered by lack of car or transportation— how could they get to library once a week or library get to them. Use volunteers? Issue appears on transportation survey

Safe haven for after school for kids left out by other programs. School serve this function?

Should there be a focus group or forum for children; HPL is planning one for young adults/teens

Group Discussion of 13 To inspire and cultivate x3

rewritten from Satisfy Curiosity/Lifelong Learning; what could library do?

Makerspace using Science, Tech, Education, Math; and add A for arts
Investment club for retirement/class for 40 year olds
Language classes x2 added to Italian and French (didn't know)

How to make bread using the outdoor oven x2
Professional education for people who work; like continuing ed credit
Class on how to build an outdoor oven
Setting up a business or running a business

Group broke up and talked about library programs for some of the Library Service Responses

1. Cultivating curiosity

The Makerspace

The outdoor oven

Maybe we lose the business planning with this theme; would SCORE of SEVCA would be better?

Or have a SCORE night at the library

Programs to explore vernal pools or cheesemaking at Cobb Hill. How someone does something; or about the environment

Share your passion theme— like an author from the community comes to give a writing workshop

OSHER class: people come to teach courses. Comes out of Dartmouth. Arranges sites. Kilton Lib does this. Could HPL be a site? \$50/person for most courses

Collaborative inquiry into a problem or issue; community concern that people get together to work on. Jackson does this; could do more

Issue could be serial— over the course of time [is this more like Know Your Community?]

Electric plant/gym at the library to generate power— starts with an idea, requires group action

Monthly podcast about someone's passion— then they offer a workshop; Might spin off the VT Folklife workshops

Library hosts CATV for homeschoolers— what if that service was available for all

VT Folklife workshop on recording equipment and how to create records of Hartland experiences

Recording Hartland events and archiving them like the Royalton Radio station

Storycorps

Think of town issues and how the library could play a role in offering information, discussions; also on the listserv and Bob Stacey's minutes from select board

Salman Rushdie "in Hartland" as part of Vermont Reads

Tomorrow Ted Talk

Computer classes

Vermont recycling is coming up; trying to do more recycling. Still a lot of people that don't get what's going on. A community problem that the library could help with. It's going to be a big thing.

Is technology the mechanism to get to the ends? It's with us, we need to get comfortable with it. Mechanism to connectivity...

How our community Expresses our Passions/Shares our Passions

Library as a place to explore the passions, find out what's bothering people, what they need to learn

Could be an individual exploring or a group

Library as a place that will bridge gaps— racial, civil unions, how do we bring people together

List serv provides the communication, library provides the space and opportunities for exploration of ideas. Do it as a Request for Proposal, RFP, we will ask speakers, etc. Similar to what Jackson does with Community Forums. (Have sources of accurate data when dialogs begin on the listserve.) Listserv initiates group dialogs. What people need is accurate information when dialogs begin online. The library could be a resource for that.

Library provides the physical space— playing with 13, satisfying curiosity. Physical space is really important— community meeting room, outdoor space, many other ideas.

Library offering a place where things can happen for the community

Library might offer to find a speaker to give a program

Library could help one person research and explore

Could the library connect people? Like the brick oven example— helping to find other people with the passion. (Related to the listserv? If 10 people would join us...)

Hartland is 3500 people. Should we reinvent the wheel that Jackson does? Be careful about how much we create that overlaps

Synergies? A topic from the Hartland forum becomes a working group. Reflecting back to broader community the results

How does the work of the library reflect more than the director Amy Wisehart? Don't want to bite off too much, do a few things well

Ideas

Like Royalton Radio and kids TV. Using Skype and Google Hangouts/Youtube channel. Kid reporting

Creating playspace – not expensive but kids playing creatively around the library. Fairy houses... using nature. Elizabeth has an article

Radio/transmitting info via waves: making videos or music videos, ALTERED Books

Craft

Increase space and parking space bigger— physically. Feel cramped— the community room is too small; no place to park some days. Staff should grow too

Educational online courses with a media system here— like UVM and CCV programs, Master Gardener

Respect that Amy W can't do it all. Important for town groups to partner with the library— more energy coming to the library.

Townpeople take responsibility for programs and what happens at the library. More people in the door.

Friends of Library is a small group— help them grow? More participation at every level

Worry about kids in small childcares; put together package of learning materials for delivery regularly; kids who are living in homes that don't have access to books or education

Get people into the stacks, past the DVD section

Link DVDs and books— combo deal and audios

Bookmobile or delivery with meals on wheels. So box of books come with meals

Nontrad lending— can I swap cartooning lesson for how to build a stone wall. Time bank.

References, recommendations

Lending games or a game exchange esp for when entertaining kids for a week. Educational games

Lend nontraditional things like ukuleles

Busy people and how to help them— parents or adults, by providing selections for pickup

History program on your house's history

Supporting an oral history program to create Hartland archive, what people who live here remember

Storytelling program— informal. Margo Hickey, whose daughter does it in Brooklyn

Quechee Library has remote drop box at the Co Op. Remote drop box off site

Space in North Hartland— old school house-- to use for Makerspace

Series of lifeskills— old timey like hunting, butchering, sewing, carpentry , cheese making, goats etc.

Tutoring reference service— nontraditional

Rotate home screens on kids computers to nature centers and museums

-- offer variety of home pages in childrens room. Or same idea with desktop

Library building

Anything to add?

Steering Committee & Staff Input

- Better elevator?

- Winter parking issues

- Another bathroom?

Library partnerships

Steering Committee & Staff Input

- More connections to Historical Society

- Connect local authors to each other and to other libraries?

- More social media?

- Career workshops?

Genealogy
Local house histories

The director should make more money
The staff may need new skills for collaborating
They may also need more paid time

Closing

What happens now?
Feedback from tonight to Steering Committee
Development of Goals and Objectives
Staff write the new plan
Board and staff consider Mission
Board formally accepts the plan
Library, library, library

Good ambassadors
Know something about the country they are posted to
Know something about the country they represent
Step carefully as they observe, learn, advocate
Feedback on the day's structure
What went well?
What would you change?
Do you have recommendations for the Steering Committee?
Looking back, are there gaps in the information we considered? Did we reach the important stakeholders?

The library really needs an energy audit– blower door, infrared, electricity usage for example.
Standard– closer look at lights.

Vermont Department of Libraries

Amy Howlett
Library Development Consultant

