

Hartland Public Library  
Strategic Planning Committee  
Approved Meeting Minutes  
Nov 9, 2024, 10:00 am  
Damon Hall, 1 Quechee Road, Hartland, VT 05048

Present: Becka Warren, Laura Bergstresser, Colleen Lannon, John Dumas, Harriet Dumas, Chiho Kaneko, Kathleen Cross, Hatsy McGraw, Traci Joy, Toni Vendetti, Prue Merton, and Dana Jacobson-Goodhue.

I. Meeting called to Order at 10:05am.

A. Introductions were made.

B. Corrections and additions to the agenda. The approval of previous meeting minutes has been added to the end of the agenda.

II. Strategic Planning Discussion: The focus on the HPL mission has been specifically on being a “gathering place for all.” The one-on-one interviews and digital surveys were overwhelmingly positive. Becka, Traci and Dana met to put comments into 6 themes: staff, programming, services, hours, collections and facilities. Four of those topics will be explored further today in a visioning process for the future of the library five years in the future. Next steps will include staff input and then the Strategic Planning Committee will make its recommendations and prioritizations for the Board. The following were the broad statements made by the thematic groups.

A. Collections: In 2030 when people walk in the door there will be a digital directory with information on new programs, new books and services. There is a kiosk with a touch screen map pointing patrons to various collections, various sections of the library will have clear signage and will be enhanced to support the interests of Hartland

library patrons including adult fiction, audiobooks, chapter books (youth) as well as field guides.

- B. Hours: In 2030 the HPL will have sufficient staff and money to be able to respond to the needs and desires of the community in terms of operating hours. This could look like: more total or set hours per week. It could be like current hours and flexible hours, a system for patrons to request particular hours, a greater number of community groups using visiting spaces and adequate volunteers to assist with expanded hours.
  
- C. Programming: The HPL will be open all days, except Sunday, from 9-9 with five more staff and many more volunteers. Programs will be well attended and the community deeply involved. The newsletter will go out monthly and there will be a dedicated Outreach and Programming Coordinator. The library will fulfill its mission and be responsive to the community needs. The community (all aged groups) will recognize the library as more than just a place to take out books. Folks in town will consult librarians about programs, services and information. The Friends will meet monthly at the HPL.
  
- D. Staff: In 2030 the staff of the HPL will have created a gathering place for all in part by identifying how the library differs from other gathering places in town as well as by preparing for possible needs to not be a gathering place (construction, public health, etc). To continue to be a welcoming space, there will be an emphasis of diversity and inclusion on the walls, in the shelves, and in staff behavior (presence at the desk to welcome all those who enter). Advertising and outreach will be made to underrepresented groups like teens via social media (not FB). Events in town will be known by everyone and posted everywhere increasing the circulation and participation data of the library. The community room will be better defined and advertised so that more groups and diverse groups are using it. There will also be

more partnerships with community organizations and local groups. Finally, there will be enhanced ADA accessibility like large print books, safer “lift,” etc.

- III. The wrap-up discussion suggested creating a co-working space since places like Hartland Community Arts and the Garden Club don't have their own buildings. Could there be space for them to use at the library? Could the various groups in Hartland with collections share access to those collections (digital) with the library? It would be ideal if representatives of the various groups in Hartland could come together for an audit of town buildings and space. The group is hopeful about the community coming back together after the pandemic!
  
- IV. Minutes from previous meetings were approved. The minutes from June 5th recommended that COVID be spelled correctly. With this change Becka made a motion to approve the minutes and Hatsy seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Prue moved to approve the minutes from June 26th and Harriet seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Jacobson-Goodhue