

Library Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

August 28, 2021

Town Hall

Committee Members Present

Elaina Bergamini, FoGL
Katelyn Coolley, Library Director
George Curran, Library Trustee
Andrew Cushing, Library Trustee (joined meeting during second hour),
Karen Johnson, Library Trustee
Cindy Kudlik, Selectboard
Gary Whitney, Planning Board
Susan Tresch Fienberg, Non-Voting Facilitator

Public Present

Gretchen Renee
Paul Vogt (with video)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

- Cindy moved that the Committee approve the June minutes as amended. Gary seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Cindy moved that the Committee approve the July minutes as submitted. George seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Activity Between Meetings

Susan met with Kate to work on a preliminary draft of the implementation plan to be presented at this meeting for discussion.

Refinement and Approval of Foundational Statements

Mission

Elaina moved to approve the revised mission statement as presented. George seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The new library mission is as follows:

To advance lifelong learning and community spirit by providing free access to literature, media, and programming that reflect local needs and interests.

Vision

Elaina moved to accept the proposed vision statement as presented. Katelyn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The new library vision statement is as follows:

By 2026, the Grafton Town Library will be a place where all members of the community feel welcome and well-served by resources, programs, and facilities that suit local needs and interests.

To achieve this vision, the library will optimize its hours of operation, sponsor programs for all ages, promote awareness and utilization of all library resources, offer opportunities for neighbors to connect, collaborate with nearby libraries and town entities, and provide accessible facilities that comfortably accommodate quiet use of the library and group activity in keeping with the library's mission.

Values

The committee was ready to accept most of the values statements, but asked that the phrase "reputational assets" be omitted from the statement about stewardship and further requested that a statement affirming the importance of two-way communication with the public be added. These revisions will be presented at the next meeting.

Strategic Priorities

The committee decided that refinement and approval of the proposed strategic priorities should be postponed until the next meeting, when the implementation plan (which operationalizes the strategic priorities) will be discussed.

Intended Impact

The committee agreed that “steady year-by-year increases” in the number of people served will be good indicator of the library’s impact and asked that this phrase be added to the intended impact statement as its measurement component. It was further agreed that utilization and participation data be proposed as the primary indicators of impact, and that the examples of these types of data be omitted from the statement.

Many also resonated with the “ancillary goals” that Susan added to the draft foundational statements. These reference a desire for the library to serve a source of pride, community spirit, and unity (not division) in our town, and for the library to serve as a model of what a small library in a rural community can achieve. Susan will attempt to fold these goals into the approved vision statement and will present the augmented statement at the September meeting.

Draft Implementation Timeline

Susan introduced the draft implementation timeline, describing how it is structured and the questions it raises.

Committee members were invited to comment on the draft timeline between meetings. (Per George's preference, any deliberation about the strategic priorities and implementation timeline will take place at the September meeting – not between meetings via email.)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.

Meeting notes were taken by Elaina Bergamini. Clarification was added by Susan Tresch Fienberg.