

## Minutes

Grafton Library Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, 9/25/2021  
Grafton Town Hall

In attendance: Andrew Cushing, Karen Johnson, George Curran, Susan Fienberg, Elaina Bergamini, Cindy Kudlik, Gary Whitney  
Members of the public in attendance: Gretchen Renee, Paul Vogt (to set up video)  
Absent: Kate Coolley (working at the library)

Meeting called to order 10:05 am.

George motioned to approve last month's minutes; Cindy seconded. All in favor.

Susan shared the draft strategic plan which would guide the library for the next five years.

-The committee discussed the vision statement, with Elaina moving to accept the revised statement. George seconded, all in favor. The approved statement reads:

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

-The committee discussed the intended impact, which reads:

"Within five years, the Grafton Public Library will have a positive impact on the lives of many more Grafton residents than it serves in 2021, with **steady year-by-year increases in the number of townspeople served.**"

Elaina moved to accept as written. Karen seconded. All in favor.

-The committee then reviewed the values statements, which included the importance of communication, collaboration, and inclusive services for residents. Andrew moved to accept, Cindy seconded. All in favor.

-The committee discussed the strategic priorities, especially where to place the need for improved facilities and increased funding. Eight priorities were selected and ordered as follows: 1) Improving communications, 2) Collect and use data to inform decision-making, 3) Identify and address facility shortcomings, 4) Optimize library operating hours, 5) Build up volunteer program, 6) Increase collaboration with town organizations and nearby

libraries, 7) Develop more and new programs, 8) Pursue non-taxpayer dollars for programs and facility improvements.

-The committee then reviewed the implementation timeline that Susan prepared, with only small changes suggested.

Cindy made a motion to accept the strategic plan. Elaina seconded. All in favor.

Gary asked what the next steps were. It was proposed that:

- 1) The plan would be presented at a future Library Trustee meeting and a future selectboard meeting.
- 2) Trustees would then be responsible for carrying out the priorities listed in the plan.

George raised concern with the trustees only overseeing the plan's implementation, given turnover and the committee's hard work in creating the document. Susan suggested the Strategic Planning Committee meet quarterly to check progress. Others suggested that twice/year or once/year was more palatable. All agreed the committee should meet annually for the next five years to evaluate progress.

Cindy asked if the Committee would remain as is, given turnover on the planning board, selectboard, and library staff. Susan recommended that the Trustees should decide how to appoint new members to the Committee as needed, to be addressed at October or November's Trustee meeting. The Trustees would also be responsible for scheduling the annual meeting for the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12:14pm.

Submitted by Andrew Cushing