

The September 2018 Public Forum

The library trustees held a public forum in 2018. Attendees developed lists relating to Library Resources, Library Services, and the Library Facility. The items were ranked with colored dots - the 4 highest priority at 1 point each and the 4 important-but-not-the-highest-priority at .5 points each. The trustees tabulated the votes and used the rankings as a guide for what the community wanted from their library.

The items receiving the most votes in each category and the trustees' responses are listed below.

Resources

(6) Increase library budget -

The library budget was increased with more open hours, more librarian hours, more library aide hours, higher hourly pay rates, and the addition of a Technology line item to support automation and OverDrive expenses.

(3.5) Automate library systems -

The library was automated in the fall of 2020 with KOHA.

(2) Research what other library budgets are (from similar sized towns) and increase our budget accordingly -

The NH State Library Statistics report for 2019 showed the library's budget was the lowest budget and received the lowest per capita support from local revenue (property taxes) at \$12.46. The budget has increased, but, the library still has the lowest per capita support for its budget at \$16.17 in 2021.

Services

(4.5) Afternoon hours (starting at 1:00) 1 day/week -

Afternoon hours were added on Tuesdays, morning hours were added on Thursdays, and Saturday hours were increased from 9am-1pm for a total of 15 hours.

(2.5) Post new titles (short list) on ConnectCornish, link to website for full list -

New titles are published in the librarian's monthly newsletter that is emailed to library patrons. A short list of new titles and a link to the newsletters are posted in ConnectCornish.

(2.5) Adult game day -

The trustees determined that there was no appropriate space in the library for this type of program.

(2) Publicize trustee meetings as open to public -

Library Trustee meetings are publicized as open to the public. They are warned with notices posted at the library, at the general store, on the library's web page, and in ConnectCornish.

(A follow-up item) Consider a 2-week circulation period instead of the current 4-week period

The trustees considered reducing the circulation period but decided that the current 4-week period should not be reduced.

Facility

(9.5 votes) Create accessible entrance

(9.5 votes) Build addition to join library and historical society buildings to include research space, restrooms, book shelves

(5.5 votes) Bathroom with water

These 3 items were combined for the 2019 architectural study. An architect was hired to draw up plans for an accessible entrance that included an addition to address all of the requests even though there was no land for water and septic.

(3 votes) Merge with School Library -

The trustees determined this would not be feasible due to limited space for the library's collection and lack of public access during the school day.

(A follow-up item) Look into better parking options -

An opinion from the NH Municipal Association states that the Selectboard regulates parking within the Town's right-of-way so it is a Selectboard decision.

