

Hubbard Free Library
Community Forum Discussion Highlights
January 24, 2019

Goals and Aspirations for Hallowell

- Expand Hallowell’s cultural reach in community beyond Water Street.
 - Have a cultural alley – Second Street.
- Connect to the state library and focus on first amendment museum, archives, homestead.
 - Make history accessible.
 - Effective communication of the community’s history to the next generation of leaders.
- Have the community recognized as an artistic, cultural, environmental and science hub of central Maine, with a grand piano as part of it.
- Ensure that the small-town neighborhood feel remains intact and that activities reinforce it, including the library – neighborhood and library partnerships, with more multigenerational activities.
- Economic base expands to pay for what the community wants. More people and businesses without getting too big. Maintain the community’s unique identity.
- More immigrants in our community, and more young families.
- Apple products at the library for compatibility-sake, with enough staff to offer step-by-step support.
- Ensure more events for families. Focus less on parades and drinking to other offerings.
- Actively encourage volunteering and make those who do more well known. Advertise in highly visible and meaningful ways.
 - Utilize churches to publicize needs.
- Tap into students living in dorms and engage them in community via the library, which could be a really good chill space.
- “The town for all ages”.
 - Expand the playground so it serves both big and little kids – play equipment, basketball court, for example.
 - A fitness trail for the hill.
- Honor and celebrate all that is good in Hallowell and the hard work it takes to make it this way. Also, work together to cultivate more positive changes.

Existing Library Contributions to Our Goals and Aspirations

- Events bring people together, though sometimes the crowds are small.
 - Good job coordinating with Harlow and the City; it gives cohesion to the efforts. Luthier’s week is a good example.
 - Holiday events.
- Serves families well.
 - Reading programs for kids.
 - Author events for little kids are good.
 - Letting kids serve as volunteers.
- Availability of computers for kids, people looking for jobs.
- The historical collection.
- Good bulletin board.
- Advertising of current library events.
- Very welcoming and relevant to today’s culture and society.
- Meeting space – do more of this.
- The racks are on wheels to allow spaces to open up.
- Granite Hill outreach.

- Good web page.

New Ways that the Library Can Contribute to Community

- Free wifi, snacks and being open more frequently and for longer hours.
- A café.
- A Saturday morning coffee hour.
- Three times a year, chef brings meal choices and for \$100, get the meal and music.
- A film club.
 - Alec Guinness festival.
 - Outdoor screen in August.
- Seek continuous input on which books to purchase for the library.
- Have a weatherproof shed to store chairs.
- Buy Eric's building for meeting space.
- Cultivate better relationships with Chelsea, Farmingdale, Manchester.
- The Dr. Hubbard little house – open it and use it for a book store to raise funds for the library.
- Small jazz groups in the afternoon – like Tiny Desk on National Public Radio.
- Focus less on doing more and more on doing well by filling a niche/need.
- Partner more frequently and intentionally with Vaughan Woods.
- Create a cultural district.
- Create tours of Hallowell – focusing on history followed by downtown and dinner.
- Emphasize the architectural significance of the library building. Reactivate and honor the building.
- More accessible parking.
- Expand the library using the old fire station.
 - Offer shared work spaces – co-working.
 - Place art and history on exhibit – rotating, eye-catching.
 - More Mac-compatible services including printing, with staff that can assist.
 - Routine orientations to what the library has available to the public.
 - Rent equipment – snow shoes, pickle ball, birding books and binoculars.
- Annual auction for Friend's group.
- Sponsor art classes utilizing community members who share their talents through instruction.
- Book club for kids.
- Host genealogy events.
- Showcase historical books and then put on a play.
- Use "little library" concept to get books out to community.
- Focus on kids and constructive activities that serve both.
- Increase the variety and array of items that can be borrowed – e.g., specialized tools and appliances, 3D printer.
- Shift from books to information.

Creating a Productive, Thriving Relationship between the Community and Library, including Roles for Users, City and Philanthropy

- Put windows in the doors to avoid injury of those coming and going.
- Picnic tables outdoors so people can gather around the library.
- Combine Augusta, Gardiner and Hallowell library operating structures.
- Consider other business models and how the costs would vary.
- Dedicate a percentage of local taxes to the library. Increase support for the library.
- Many are surprised to learn that the library is struggling financially. More education is needed to support shared ownership of the challenge. For instance, this could engage philanthropists.

- A public discussion on property taxes – the City should “own” the library – feel a deep sense of responsibility to it.
- Create a formalized public/private partnership like the Stevens School.
- Carefully coordinate fundraising drives so they don’t overlap.
- Secure a grant writer for city hall.
- The city should pay more.