



## PUTNEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Strategic Plan Summary

## Fiscal Years 2017-2019

### **Process**

In the fall of 2015, a committee of board members, staff and community members met to research and write a strategic plan for the Putney Public Library.

With the addition of new director, Emily Zervas, the time had come to re-evaluate the community's needs and see where the Library fits into the town's vision for itself. The strategic planning process was a great way to get a feel for what the Library could be for the people of Putney.

The process consisted of two large "task force" meetings with approximately 30 community members at each. Vermont Department of Libraries consultant, Amy Howlett, facilitated and drew the group out on what they felt the community's strengths were. She also challenged us to think of its aspirations and areas for improvement. The group then applied this same process to thinking about the Putney Public Library.

Putney's pride in its rich history, community traditions, cultural activities, and natural beauty really came through in the meetings; so did its pride in the Library. The group used the two meetings to get in touch with the community's trajectory and needs, and created a list of three goals to guide the library's actions over the next three years. Below are the goals and a three-year task plan to help realize them.

### **Goal 1: Celebrate Diversity**

**Cultural awareness. Residents will have programs and services that promote appreciation and understanding of their personal heritage and the heritage of others in the community.**

**Task force members resonated with this goal as a way of connecting to the richer picture of who lives in the community, understanding our personal heritage, and bringing together different generations around themes, such as local history.**

**Identified Partners in the Community:** The Putney Historical Society, The Paper Mill, Vermont Humanities Council, Vermont Folklife Center, Windham County South East Supervisory Union, The Root Social Justice Center, ACT for Social Justice.

**Tasks:**

- Invite the Putney Paper Mill and the Putney Historical Society to contribute to a local history/story telling event about the place of the paper mill in the town's history (FY 2017.)
- Connect with The Vermont Folklife Center around the theme of storytelling and oral histories and make use of their resources in our community (FY2018.)
- Host at least two events per year that focus on understanding the socially, politically, economically, and culturally diverse community around us (FY2017-2019.)
- Continue partnership with ACT for Social Justice by providing programs to parents and caregivers about teaching social justice to children through discussion and books (FY2017.)

## **Goal 2: Create Young Readers**

**Early literacy. Children from birth to age five will have programs and services designed to ensure that they will enter school ready to learn to read, write, and listen.**

**The task force was also interested in creating more services for elementary and middle school-age children.**

**Identified Partners in the Community:** Putney Central School, The Vermont Early Literacy Initiative, The Children's Literacy Foundation, The Grammar School, The Putney School, It Takes A Village, Windham County Childcare, Landmark College, Putney Family Services.

**Tasks:**

- Expand the Summer Reading Program and partner with Putney Central School to increase enrollment and partner programs (FY2017.)
  - Visit school to distribute the summer reading schedule.
  - Encourage older children to get involved as helpers doing community service.
- Partner with The Putney School, The Grammar School, and Putney Central School to apply for and present intergenerational programming using the Vermont Humanities Council's Vermont Reads Grant (FY2017-2019.)
- Focus on improving the collection of materials in the juvenile fiction and non-fiction sections as well as materials for babies and early readers (FY2017-2018.)
  - Weed these sections first and evaluate the strength and weaknesses of the collection.
  - Develop these collections using selection materials from the State Department of Libraries youth consultant.

-Hold after school programs in the winter months and increase passive programming for older elementary school and middle school students (FY2017.)

-Explore adding a part time youth librarian position (FY2019.)

## **Goal 3: Understand How to Find, Evaluate, and Use Information**

**Information fluency. Residents will know that when they need information to resolve an issue or answer a question they will have the skills to search for, locate, evaluate, and effectively use information to meet their needs.**

**Task force members wanted to make sure that patrons are able to connect to new books, find reliable information online, and have the skills needed to navigate the internet safely.**

**Identified Community Partners:** Vermont Department of Libraries, local computer repairmen and technology trainers.

### **Tasks:**

- Use the library website to highlight ways for patrons to connect to reliable research resources from Vermont Online Library and other vetted sources (FY2017.)

-Spotlight our subscriptions to different databases using the scrolling slide show and short articles about the databases.

-Increase visibility of reader's advisory resources both online and in the library (FY2017.)

-Increase interest and participation in the book group through announcements and displays.

-Encourage use of Bookmarks magazine and online readers advisory tools.

-Hold at least one program per year on information fluency and security with the target audience of adults and seniors (FY2017-2019.)

-Hire an outside speaker to talk about apps, scams, medical research, and other common concerns.

-Continue partnership with Landmark College and Putney Cares to provide classes to area seniors on how to use computers. This will be supported by weekly one-on-one computer training provided by staff. Marketing for these programs will include information literacy as a specific focus (FY2017-2019.)

-Continue to provide one-on-one support for all patrons needing assistance with computers or other personal devices (FY2017-2019).

Adopted 6/21/2016