

THE DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

LONG RANGE PLAN

2006---2011

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES-----DECEMBER 2005

Mission Statement

The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library

Encourages love of reading
and lifelong learning by
providing diverse selections
of classic and current books,
multimedia materials, unique local
collections, and programming for
all ages in an inviting space fostering
community interaction and public discussion.

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8 RIVER ROAD, JERICHO, VT. 05465
(802) 899-4962

THE PLANNING PROCESS

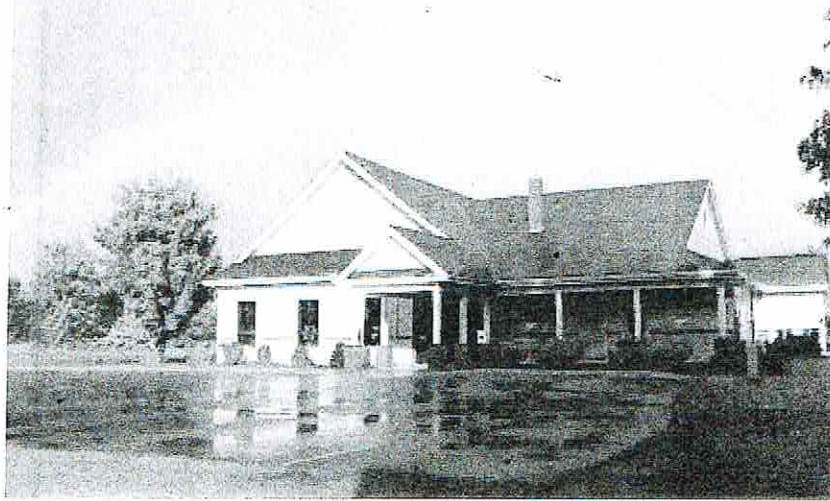
The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library's Long Range Planning Committee has completed a plan for 2006-2011. The committee, made up of three library trustee board members, the library director and two staff members, two town resident representatives and one member of the library friends committee worked for one year to put together a plan to meet the needs of our two communities, Jericho and Underhill. The chair and the library director also met several times with Marianne Kotch, the Public Library Services Coordinator for the Vermont Department of Libraries, and a group of other librarians and trustees who were also working on long range plans. The planning committee followed the steps and suggestions outlined in "The New Planning for Results" from the American Library Association. The steps included the following:

- * gathering community input by holding community forums in the summer of 2005 where discussions of community needs were recorded;
- * looking at statistics and trends of the community and the library;
- * choosing "service responses" the committee felt would best address needs of the community;
- * writing a mission statement and goals to correspond with the chosen service responses as well as future library facility needs;
- * and lastly, drafting objectives and activities to assist in meeting perceived goals.

Many thanks to all who helped during the planning process:

Committee Members

Mary S. Bassett
Nancy Craig
Cindy Hamlet
Dana Labrum
Shelley Salzer
Anne Hawley
Jory Curran
Mary Jane Dickerson
Nancy Karlson



Introduction

The towns of Jericho and Underhill have been home to five libraries over the past three centuries. These libraries were housed in everything from a private home to a town hall and finally in to a new building which opened in 1998. Throughout the history of library services in these towns volunteers and residents played and continue to play a crucial supportive role. Outlined below is a brief history of these libraries beginning with the new Deborah Rawson Memorial Library.

The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library

In 1995 the residents of Jericho and Underhill approved a plan to create the Jericho-Underhill Library District (JULD), Vermont's first library municipal district. The trustees who were appointed to JULD began to research and develop plans to replace the Waters Memorial Library, which since its dedication in 1933, had a long history of support by both communities. The trustees also acknowledged the other two libraries in the community; Delaporte Library housed in the Underhill Town Hall and the Jericho Town Library in Jericho Center. All three libraries were not handicapped accessible, had no public meeting space, and were low on space for their services and collections. In addition, the Waters Library, the only library among the three libraries that had financial support from both towns, had no room for expansion nor could it easily be made handicapped accessible. Because of these limitations and through the support of the residents of the two towns the trustees decided to develop plans to design and build a new library.



Waters Memorial Library

Black River Design, an architectural firm in Montpelier, designed the 5,000 square foot building. It is

located on a two-schooled campus, near the town line separating Jericho and Underhill. During the planning period, the Waters Library Board received a generous donation from Dr. and Mrs. Rawson, whose family came from the Jericho/ Underhill area, and who were seeking a memorial for their daughter *Deborah*. This donation combined with fundraising efforts and support of a local bond provided the money needed to build the new library. The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library was dedicated on January 24, 1998. The Waters Memorial Library had merged with the Jericho-Underhill Library District in 1997 and the Delaporte Library merged with the new library district in 1998 when the new library opened. The Jericho Town Library remains open and is a cooperating library.

A History of Library Services in Jericho and Underhill

The first record of library services in the towns of Jericho and Underhill is the library association formed in Underhill Center in 1800. The Delaporte Memorial Library was established in 1903. The Delaporte family donated property and a building to the association in 1917, providing a home for library services in the Underhill Center area. This building was sold to the U.S. Postal Service. The Delaporte Memorial Library was then housed in a room in the Underhill Town Hall. The Delaporte Library merged with the new library district in 1998.



Delaporte Memorial Library

Library services were provided to residents of the town of Jericho through the efforts of the Brown's River Study Club and of the Social Service Club in Jericho Center. The Jericho Library, located in the "village" section of the town, was supported by the Brown's River Study Club. The Social Service Club supported the Jericho Town Library, located in the "center" section of the town.

"For many years, the Jericho Library consisted of a small number of books in a spare room of a private home whose owner was so inclined to recognize the need of available reading material" writes Elinor Merle in the *History of Jericho, Vermont, Volume II*. Elinor describes further how the Brown's River Study Club was formed in 1937, and, in 1938, decided to sponsor the Jericho Library and "provide a home for the books." Through the years, the library's "home" moved from place to place but the women continued to staff and maintain the library. This library was in service until the late 1970s.

In the same volume, Pauline Dustin details the development of the Jericho Town Library, stating that, "Since 1915, the Town Library has been housed in the old Academy building, later called the Parish House at Jericho Center." When Brown's Trace was widened at the curve in Jericho Center in 1955, the building was moved to its present location on the Green. The Congregational Church owns the

building and donated its use to the library. Originally, the Social Service Club provided financial support. Today, the library's services are supported through taxes and the enthusiastic fundraising efforts of its many devoted patrons. The Jericho Town Library is a cooperating library with the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library. The two libraries support each other by offering joint programs and services.



Jericho Town Library

In 1924, the Mansfield Women's Club started the Waters Memorial Library in Underhill Flats. Its first location was in the house that is now the home of Donald Langlois. In the History of Jericho Vermont, Volume II, Etta Woodward writes, "August Waters, a young clerk in a general store, saw the interest taken by the women to provide a Library. Even though circumstances intervened he kept this project in mind. Years later he contributed a substantial sum of money toward the erecting of this building." The Waters Memorial Library was dedicated on August 9, 1933 and served residents of both Jericho and Underhill for 65 years. The Waters Memorial Library closed when the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library opened in 1998.

Jericho, the smaller but more densely populated of the two towns was once home to Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley, a farmer who photographed over five thousand beautiful snow crystals. Jericho's historic Old Red Mill houses a museum displaying the equipment Mr. Bentley used and many of his impressive prints. Jericho is home to the oldest continuously running general store in Vermont and the Jericho Community Center. The Community Center is a gathering place for community members for dances, classes and discussions. The Jericho Town Library is located on the town green in Jericho. The two libraries work together to provide services and programs to all members of the community.

Underhill, the more rural of the two towns, provides access to Mt. Mansfield through the Underhill State Park. Known for its great hiking and skiing trails, the park attracts visitors from all over. Each fall, Underhill hosts the Harvest Market for a weekend of events to celebrate the end of summer and the coming of winter.

The towns combine efforts in many ventures including a regional middle school and high school and the recently formed Mills Riverside Park. Mills Riverside Park is 216 acres of land preserved for recreational use for the local residents. Each town supports its own elementary school for grades K-4 and a regional elementary school for the ID district. The towns are similar in many ways, but each town has a strong character that supports the unique environment that surrounds the DRML.

SERVICE RESPONSE-----BUILDING COMMUNITY

I--GOAL

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY VIEW THE LIBRARY AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF COMMUNITY LIFE PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

II-OBJECTIVES

- 1-PROVIDE ACCESS TO LOCAL AND STATE INFORMATION.
- 2-PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES THAT COORDINATE WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS.
- 3-INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE LIBRARY THROUGH PUBLICITY.

III-ACTIVITIES

- 1-CREATE A LOCATION IN THE LIBRARY FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION.
- 2-PUBLICIZE TO TARGET AUDIENCES.
- 3-HAVE MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS LEAD/ PROVIDE PROGRAMS.
- 4-INVESTIGATE STANDARDIZING PUBLICITY NOTICES i.e.SAME COLOR, LOGO ETC.
- 5-INCREASE COMMUNICATION WITH TOWN OFFICIALS.

SERVICE RESPONSE---LIFELONG LEARNING

I--GOAL

PERSONS OF ALL AGES WILL USE THE LIBRARY AS A CENTER OF LEARNING THAT INSPIRES GROWTH, STIMULATES DEVELOPMENT AND ENCOURAGES READING.

II--OBJECTIVES

1-INCREASE THE USE OF THE LIBRARY WEB SITE.

2-INCREASE CIRCULATION BY 5% EACH YEAR.

3-INCREASE REFERENCE TRANSACTIONS BY 5% EACH YEAR.

III--ACTIVITIES

1-INSTALL WEB SITE COUNTER.

2-INVESTIGATE THE ADDITION OF THE LIBRARY CATALOG TO THE WEB SITE.

3-IMPROVE ACCESS TO NEW TITLES AND TOPICS.

SERVICE RESPONSE---COMMONS-GATHERING PLACE

I--GOAL

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES, ACTIVITIES, MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS.

II--OBJECTIVES

- 1- PROVIDE A SAFE, HELPFUL, ACCEPTING AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE..
- 2- PROVIDE A SCHEDULE THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF PATRONS.
- 3-INVOLVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS NOT BEING SERVED.
- 4-INCREASE NUMBER OF FRIENDS
- 5-INCREASE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY.

III-ACTIVITIES

- 1-PROMOTE MEETING ROOM USE
- 2-EVALUATE THE LIBRARY'S HOURS
- 3-PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

LIBRARY SPACE AND FACILITIES

I-GOAL

A MASTER PLAN DIRECTING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FACILITY.

II-OBJECTIVES

1-ASSESS COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS AND NEEDS.

2-ASSESS LIBRARY SERVICES AND ADEQUACY OF FACILITY SPACES.

3-ASSESS AND EVALUATE THE EXISTING FACILITY INCLUDING MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.

III-ACTIVITIES

1-HAVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF REPORT ON SPECIFIC NEEDS.

2-MEET WITH A CONSULTANT TO SURVEY FACILITY AND SERVICES.

3-COLLECT COMMUNITY INPUT.

4-HAVE THE TRUSTEE BOARD EVALUATE THE RESULTS FROM #'s 1, 2, & 3 AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.