

**Walpole Public Library**  
**Long Range Plan**  
**FY 2018 – FY 2021**

## **Executive Summary**

In February of 2012, the Walpole Public Library opened into its brand new facility located at 143 School Street next door to Walpole Town Hall and short walk to the center of town. At 32,000 square feet the new building is almost twice the size of the old Carnegie library built on Common Street in 1904. Our new facility contains a number of amenities absent in the old building, these include individual and small group study rooms, two large meeting spaces, a dedicated program room for the Children's department, a temperature and humidity controlled local history room, a young adult room, an ADA compliant building and elevator, and large dedicated parking lot. The result is that the library has seen a number of key statistical indicators grow significantly since providing service in its new location. The following plan is the first that looks at the new facility as the starting point for its goals and objectives.

Increases in circulation, programming, number of meetings held and number of people visiting the library indicate a broad level of support from the community. However, most of engagement the library has with the community happens only inside the walls of the building. The focus of our first goal is to develop ways to engage the community outside of the physical building. Over the next few years, the library hopes to increase its presence in the community with a consistent use of media, to develop long-term partnerships with other stakeholders, and by developing services to reach those who are physically unable to visit the library.

One of the challenges of working in a new building is adapting old policies, procedures and work flows into a facility that has a different physical layout and evolving service needs. As a staff we are far enough removed from our previous surroundings to objectively look and adapt to our new situation. Regularly scheduled staff training sessions, and technology and facilities plans will help improve library operations.

The Walpole Public Library has been fortunate to have had stable and dependable financial support from the town management, town meeting and the community at large. However, the fickle ebbs and flows of the local and state economies will no doubt have negative impacts on town and department budgets in the coming years. It is necessary for the library to develop strategies and alternate funding sources to compensate for some of these inevitable future budget shortfalls.

## **Methodology**

In early 2016 the library employed various methods to gather the information used in this strategic plan. The library ran focus groups with targeted populations and constituencies. The library also conducted a community survey that was available both in print and online. Lastly, the library generated a number of statistical reports to better understand current activity and emerging trends.

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Walpole Public Library is to bring people, information and ideas together to enrich and strengthen our community.

The Library serves the community by:

- providing a welcoming facility and varied meeting spaces that foster positive interactions between members of the Walpole community
- offering Library programs, services and collections that reflect community needs and interests, feature community voices and create meaningful experiences
- supporting the lifelong learning, economic development and creative expression of Walpole Public Library with shared technology, digital resources and access to information in physical and virtual form
- maintaining an historical record of the community as well as collecting materials of historical interest

## **Vision**

The vision of the Walpole Public Library is to be a vital center of a thriving community.

## **Goals and Objectives:**

### **Goal A: Increase community engagement**

Objective A1: Develop and implement a comprehensive communication plan.

Objective A2: Develop and strengthen partnerships with other community stakeholders.

Objective A3: Investigate and develop a Home Bound delivery service.

Objective A4: Increase Library hours.

### **Goal B: Evaluate and improve library operations**

Objective B1: Develop and implement a plan to regularly train staff.

Objective B2: Re-examine library policies and procedures for appropriateness in our new facility.

Objective B3: Develop and implement a technology plan.

Objective B4: Develop and implement a facilities plan.

### **Goal C: Long-term financial stability**

Objective C1: Develop and implement a long-term financial plan.

Objective C2: Develop and implement a fundraising plan with the Walpole Library Endowment Trust.

Objective C3: Seek alternate funding sources.

This plan was approved by the Walpole Board of Library Trustees on November 29, 2016.