

PLANNING SUMMARY

The following plan was developed by the Inlet Library Board and the Inlet Library Director with input from library patrons and community members. The concept was to develop a plan that is both doable and measurable. This plan will raise community awareness of the library and will offer programs developed collaboratively with community groups.

HISTORY: THE TOWN OF INLET

The Town of Inlet became a township and hamlet in 1902. Located in Hamilton County in the west-central Adirondack Mountains. Inlet is situated along the Route 28 corridor of New York State's six-million-acre Adirondack Park. Inlet encompasses approximately 66.4 square miles. Inlet's abundance of natural features contributes to the strong rustic and natural character of this Adirondack hamlet. It is considered a gateway to a more primitive and pristine portion of the Adirondack Park.

Although the number of temporary and seasonal residents is in the thousands, permanent residents number only about 300. As a tourist destination summer through winter months, it offers visitor lodging, dining, shopping, golfing, boating, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, hiking, recreational equipment sales, rentals and services. Other business such as the hardware store, lumber store, garden center, convenience store/gas station, grocery store, liquor store, insurance/real estate business, contractor, Adirondack furnishing stores, gift shops and a marina, offer tourists, seasonal residents and year-round residents a variety of products and services. There are also three churches, a post office, volunteer fire and

ambulance services, town offices, a public library, public recreational parks and a senior center. The Town voted to close its grade school for the 2018-2019 school year due to the declining permanent population. The median age of Inlet's permanent population is 55; 65% male. Race and ethnicity is virtually all white, non-Hispanic. Inlet population by age group is: 13% 0-19, 7% 20-29, 21% 30-39, 4% 40-49, 9% 50-59, 17% 60-69, 29% 70+. Median household income is about \$50,000, per capita income about \$25,000.

Source of data: Town of Inlet Comprehensive Master Plan, U.S. Census Bureau, Census Reporter, Town Charts, City-Data.

HISTORY: TOWN OF INLET LIBRARY

In the years before 1982, the reading and research needs of the Inlet area were served by Bookmobile visits every two weeks and by small classroom libraries for the children. In 1982, a group of visionaries founded the Little Schoolhouse Library to meet the demands of the local and tourist population. Housed in the small, original school building at the Inlet Common School, it provided books and reference materials as well as library science instruction to the school's students (and did so until the school's closure in 2019).

Outgrowing its tiny space, the Little Schoolhouse Library transformed into the Town of Inlet Public Library in 1998, and relocated to the former Fire Hall in the center of town. It continues to offer books and reference services as well as the advancement of new technology including Wi-Fi, computers for patron use, audio books, DVDs and CDs, copies, faxes, scanning, a notary service and a used book room.

The Town of Inlet Public Library has proven itself to be a vital asset to our area in every way.

INLET PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS

In 2020, the Inlet Public Library housed 3,355 adult fiction books, 816 adult non-fiction books, 2,366 children's fiction books, 746 children's non-fiction books. We circulated 2,932 adult materials and 731 children's materials. We received 202 materials via inter-library loans and loaned 1,842 materials to other libraries.

In 2020, due to the pandemic, the library was closed to the public for four months. In the remaining eight months, 2,645 patrons visited the library. Though affected by the pandemic, 2,125 patrons used wireless service and 10,431 visited the website.

MISSION

The Town of Inlet Public Library exists to provide quality service that meets the needs of the people in our service area in an open and non-judgmental environment with free access to library materials and services in a variety of formats.

VISION

Our vision is to be a people-driven viable source of books, information, technology and community, addressing the needs of our year-round population, seasonal residents and our visitors and tourists.

VALUES

We believe in life-long learning and free access to information. Life-long learning will improve the community and the individuals within. Free access to information is vital to the existence of a democratic society.

Goal 1: Raise community awareness of the library and all that it has to offer.

1. Increase Facebook presence
2. Expand website and include links to other community groups
3. Compile an email mailing list
4. Maintain advertising in local publications

Goal 2: Offer technology programs for staff and community

1. Take advantage of programs from the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS)
2. Identify technology resources either on-line or within the community

Goal 3: Promote educational and entertainment programs

1. Coordinate with community partners to share resources in presenting programs
2. Continue summer reading program
3. Continue 24-hour access to e-lending of books and audiobooks
4. Coordinate author book signings
5. Establish a gardening book resource center at the Community Task Force location

COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

Library Board members and the Library Director reached out to individual patrons, community members, visitors and the Inlet Area Business Association (IABA). The Community Aspirations Questionnaire was available at the library and was given to patrons using the library, attending the Ice Cream Social and/or attending the Adirondack Kids reception as well as being discussed at an IABA meeting.

The patrons and visitors consistently mentioned their admiration for the warm and friendly nature of the Inlet Community which they would like to have replicated in their own communities. Many were impressed with all such a small town has to offer: the programs of interest, activities for all ages all times of the year, all of the outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, boating, sledding, snowmobiling, and skiing.

The availability, friendliness, and helpfulness of the library staff was mentioned as being very special.

Discussion with IABA members centered on keeping the same hospitable and friendly atmosphere Inlet has always offered while recognizing the changes that will occur with the introduction of new businesses.

The concern was raised for keeping some of the programs that a recently closed bookstore had developed (author book signings and the Adirondack Kids Day). It was suggested that the library could be a key participant in this effort.

Discussion then centered on the new group, The Community Task Force (CTF), which is developing ways to make use of the former Inlet School. To date they have created a community garden and are working on an

inside garden. Their hope is to get children and young adults interested in gardening and self-sustaining food production.

The overall conclusion of the meeting with the IABA members was the need for community members to collaborate in developing and presenting programs.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our priority is to raise community awareness of the library while offering programs developed collaboratively with community groups. Each year the Library Board will plan and develop a budget that will support these priorities.

OUTCOMES

The Library Board and the Library Director will be responsible for accomplishing the goals and objectives. We will measure our success by keeping a record of each event or activity, the number of attendees, and anecdotal input as applicable.

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

To achieve success we need community involvement, active Library Board Members and sufficient funding. The annual budget will include funding for advertising, training, and programs