

Town Official Interviews

The Committee also felt it was important to get feedback from Town Officials and decided to approach it by interviewing each one with a series of questions. The members of the Library Commission were each asked to select the Mayor, a Town Councilor, or the Superintendent of schools and interview them with a set of questions. The following questions were asked:

1. What threats and opportunities will the Town of Ledyard face in the next five years?
2. What role do you see the library providing in the town?
3. Experience reveals that Ledyard Library Programs attract people from adjoining towns. How do you think this benefits the town?
4. Ledyard Library provides early literacy programs for preschoolers, class room visits in the spring to promote summer reading, and material purchases to supplement the school curriculum. What other ways can the library collaborate with the schools and/or other town departments?
5. What are some of the projects and programs that you would be interested in having us support/execute if resources were available?
6. The LION consortium which our library is a member of provides Ledyard residents access to over 2.5 million items with deliveries four days a week and is one of the best examples of regionalization. We see this as one of our greatest strengths. What else do you see as strength of our Library?
7. How do you use the library?

Lack of funding was seen as the biggest threat to the town along with limited population growth. Economic development presents the greatest opportunity for the town along with the generosity of community members in helping others. The library is seen as a resource for the town providing computers, job training and a sense of community. Some felt the library should stay with the traditional role of providing books and programs. There was some understanding about the benefit of attracting non-residents to town in that they may then support a local business while they are here. Some felt it was a good way to showcase the town to others. Most saw the collaboration with the schools as positive. There was a suggestion to host a one book one town involving schools based on a particular theme. More speaker programs with better marketing and more professional flyers were suggested. Linking the public library collection to the school library collections and staying up to date with technology was also suggested. The people and access to the resources were seen as strengths for the library as well as having a satellite resource in Gales Ferry. Town officials rarely use the library although family members do and some attend programs at the library or come in to use a printer or pick up a tax form.