

Stony Creek Free Library's Plan of Service 2024-2029



Mission Statement:

The Stony Creek Free Library has been an anchor point of the Stony Creek community since 1916. As a community minded organization, the library has continued to be dedicated to building healthy minds and spirits.

The Stony Creek Free Library is open to men, women, and children of all ages, as well as people of all incomes, abilities, races, and religions.

Summary:

This plan has been written to provide guidance and objectives for the next five years. This plan is based off of a survey of patrons during the summer of 2024, as well as known demographic data.

Overview:

The Stony Creek Free Library sits in the center of town, just across from the volunteer fire station, and just up from the town park. With a population of just 743 at the time of the last census in 2018, the library and the fire station, town hall, laundry mat, Dean Homestead Museum and hiking trails, and a few businesses, make up the "heartbeat" of this quaint, rural community. Sitting within the "blue line" of the Adirondack Park, mountains, and beautiful Stony Creek, surround the area the library is located in.

Although started unofficially in 1916 at a different location, the library has existed at its present location since 1960. In 1994, an addition was added to the rear of the original structure. This addition was created with much help and care from Stony Creek community volunteers, some Boy Scout members, and residents of a nearby ranch. In 2007, the Stony Creek Free Library purchased the neighboring United Methodist Church, which had closed. Shortly afterwards, the former church space started being utilized as an art gallery and Book Nook (for selling used books).

Areas of Focus for This Plan of Service:

- **Provide programs related to local history and Genealogy**
 - *Coordinate with Cindy Cameron, town historian
 - *Coordinate with the Dean Museum
 - *Hold a "Remember When" event once a year for community members to share oral history
 - *Ask long time community members to speak for a night and share any pictures they would like
 - *Add more items to our collection related to local history and genealogy
 - *Print out and have information available within the library about using Ancestry.com
 - *Promote the access to Ancestry.com
- **Continue to build email contact base**
 - *Several patrons have suggested that email notification is a good way to communicate with patrons.
 - *Grow the contact database by asking patrons if they would like to be added

*Create distribution lists for different purposes within the library (children's, all patrons, adults, events, new items etc.)

*Create an organizational system for managing new additions and any changes to the lists

*Use email contact database to promote the library, its programs, and new items

- **Prepare the library for storms and other emergencies**

- *Investigate purchasing a generator

- *Attempt a grant to fund the automatic generator if possible

- *Have some emergency snacks and water on hand.

- **Perform Maintenance on Building and Grounds**

- *Replace sign hanging from front porch

- *Replace sign for advertising programs

- *Get front door of Gallery painted

- *Explore roofing options

- *Explore a "privacy" nook for private telehealth and other patron business

- *Create a bird watching area behind the main building

- **Weed and Replace Within Collection and Book Nook**

- *Review books that have not circulated in the past 5-10 years or more

- *Review dvds that have not circulated in the past 5-10 years or more

- *Find ways to distribute and recycle books in the Book Nook

- *Purchase current bestsellers and items not found in other libraries

- *Reorganize spaces as needed for patrons to access these collections