

Programming testimony

1. Library services for specific segments of the Vermont population, including senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, youths and children, immigrant and migrant communities, and people living in poverty. ***We don't have many immigrants in Hardwick, there are migrant farm workers, but we don't see them, they remain hidden. I don't know if they are undocumented. I don't have time or energy to figure out how to engage them. I'd love to do more with seniors, but our building is not accessible and we don't have a good space to do programming with them. We are working on an addition and REALLY hope to begin construction in the spring of 2023.***
2. The role that libraries play in emergency preparedness, cultural diversity and inclusion, public health and safety, community identity and resiliency, economic development, and access to public programs and services. ***We had a big role in our local mutual aid group that sprang up because of COVID, Hardwick Neighbor to Neighbor. The group is still meeting and we are still part of the working group. We see that the group needs to continue because there may be more emergencies in the future and we built a structure that can quickly respond to community needs. The group members have also been working with the Vermont Council for Rural Development and the NEK Collaborative. We are keeping aware of how to make our community resilient. Hardwick has improved a lot over the years, but there is still poverty here.***
3. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on library operations and services. ***Unfortunately, there continue to be a lot of COVID cases. We did programming outside in good weather, in the cold months we did some online programs, the Hardwick Neighbors group did some programming and we helped. We are doing fundraising for our addition. The addition is taking up a lot of my energy. In a small library it is hard to do everything!***

I will be looking forward to commenting on the other topics that this working group will look at in the future.

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