

# Dover Plains Library

## Long Range Plan

2016-2020

Dover Plains Library Board of Trustees  
2016

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## Mission Statement

The Dover Plains Library is a center of community life, offering opportunities for people of all ages to gather, learn and grow. The mission of the Dover Plains Library is to ensure that all the residents of the Town of Dover have free and open access to information and ideas. The library encourages the love of reading and the joy of lifelong learning, and offers the assistance people need to find, evaluate, and use electronic and print information resources that help them live successful and rewarding lives.

## Introduction

The Dover Plains Library Long Range Plan 2016-2020 presents the mission, values, goals and vision for the next five years of library operations. Our plan provides a framework for our future growth and the strategies to achieve them. The emphasis of the plan is on the community of the Town of Dover. The library serves all by providing access to materials and programs to accommodate individuals at every stage of their lives. The Dover Plains Library provides current recreational and educational materials in a variety of formats including books, audio cassettes, videocassettes, DVDs, compact discs, books on CD, computer software and electronic resources.

## Town History

The early Native Americans that lived in the Dover valley were peaceful and got along well with the settlers. They were Pequots, Wampanoags, and Schaghticoke and lived within the limits of the landscape, hunting deer, squirrel, bear in the mountains, fishing the brooks and river, catching frogs and turtles in the swamps, harvesting berries, nuts, and grains in season and planting the valley floor with small areas of compatible plants such as corn, beans and squash. Some of these Native Americans were noted as early as 1635, roughly 25 years after Henry Hudson sailed up into the Hudson River.

Dutchess County was one of the original New York counties established in 1683, but it was four years before the first white family came to live there. Despite the granting of large land patents, its white settlement and growth was so slow that its government was controlled by Kingston, in Ulster County, until 1717. In 1739, the Beekman Tax List showed only 121 names; less than ten of those names can be absolutely associated with Dover.

Growth was slow because by the 1770s, most of the land east of the Hudson River was controlled by about 13 families. After the American Revolution, the land went to the common man. The population exploded as the wealth of the county became apparent. Geologically, diverse soils created agricultural opportunities, mineral deposits within the mountains offered iron, marble, lime, and granite while the geographic location of the

Hudson provided transportation. Within Dutchess County, Dover became an important area in the growth of New York.

On February 20, 1807, a group of Dutchess County men met at the Jackson Wing house, in the Town of Dover, and officially separated 26,669 square acres from the Town of Pawling and called it Dover. One of the largest towns in Dutchess County, Dover is located in eastern Dutchess County, bordered by Connecticut on the east, Amenia and Washington on the north, Beekman and Union Vale on the west, and Pawling lies to the south.

Objective 1 Facilitate use of the library by the public

- Upgrade to the advanced version of website offered through MHLS.
- With upgraded website, include more events on main page.
- Continue to improve physical condition of the collection.
- Make more copies of requested titles available based on lowered high demand levels already set up and based on Bestseller display offered on webpage.
- Feature more displays of library materials including keeping Bestseller digital frame and new DVD lists updated.
- Develop a staff picks blog updated monthly.
- Update policies regarding in library use of cell phones and food/beverages.

Objective 2 Establish new programs for all ages

- Continue developing new programs for all ages.
- Set up community service opportunities for High School students to help with providing more programs and services.
- Consider hiring a part time person (10 hours) on a mostly flexible schedule just for YA/Adult programs.
- Continue to form alliances with community organizations to provide cooperative programming, including programs offered off site.
- Provide more technology programs to the public. Look into small group sessions if 1-3 more basic laptops are purchased.

Objective 3 Expand community relations

- List and publicize local events through library website, not just on calendar but on main page.
- Continue to utilize Facebook.
- Consider utilizing Twitter, Pinterest and other Social Media if there is enough interest from the public for the time it would involve to keep sites updated.
- Publicize system wide library services.
- Include public in developing a detailed long term plan.
- Hold Fundraisers to bring in money as well as to improve community interest in Library.

Objective 4 Improve physical facilities

- Look into energy efficient window replacement options with grants.
- Upgrade main room lighting once NYSEG offers comparable fixtures to offer discount on cost.
- Plan for future expansion as necessary.
- Upgrade phones.

Objective 5 Provide enhanced technology for the public

- Install upgrades to public access computers, and provide other enhancements as these become available and are determined to be feasible.
- Add and replace public access computers and printers as needed. All computers are now at least 5 years old and all warranties have expired so replacement of most if not all computers should be expected within the next 5 years.
- Purchase 1-3 basic laptop computers for Technology programming.

Objective 6 Carry out library's plan with a well trained and adequately sized staff

- Provide staff training programs to enhance skills.
- Effect position and salary upgrades as appropriate.
- Hire a part time person for YA/Adult programming.
- Update and maintain library policy binder quarterly.
- Complete all MHLS recommended policies.