

# Hampton Falls Library

## Public Survey Results Summary

### January 2018

In Fall 2017, we initiated a “Program Wish-List Questionnaire,” designed to solicit opinions from the Hampton Falls residents about what they value, how they utilize, and what they would like to see changed or improved about our Library. This survey was done at no cost. It was distributed at the Library front desk, Town Hall, two adult programs (Lighthouses and Bobcats), enclosed and mailed in Hampton Falls tax bills, and accessible electronically via the Library web site and the Hampton Falls Observer using Survey Monkey.

A total of 85 questionnaires were returned and tallied:

- 20 from tax mailing
- 13 from Survey Monkey
- 35 from Bobcat program\*\*
- 17 from Lighthouse program

### General Findings

#### **Programs of Most Interest**

- Nature (65 respondents out of 85)
- History (49 out of 85)
- Authors (39 out of 85)

*\*\*Given the large percentage from the Bobcat program, it is reasonable to assume that this audience would demonstrate interest in more Nature programs.*

#### **Problems**

- Finding a place to park (13 out of 85)
- Finding a place to sit (11 out of 85)

*There was a low rate of response to all of the questions under the Problems section of the survey.*

## How Important Are

Very Important (in order):

- Meeting space for adults\*\*
- Comfortable reading area
- Meeting space for children
- Meeting space for public use

Least important:

- Quiet study area
- Space for computers and technology use

*\*\*not only was Meeting Space for Adults often ranked as being of highest importance (with a 5), it ranked highest in respondents' aggregated, next highest 3 and 4 rankings. We can assume that Meeting Space for Adults is of at least moderate importance to the majority of respondents.*

*Similarly, social hours or events seem to be of "moderate" importance to most, with many ranking this in the middle with 4's and 3's.*

*Finally, aggregating the lowest scores of 1 and 2, computer and quiet study area are deemed not important.*

## Other Results

- 28 email addresses were submitted to inclusion on the Library list.
- There were no critical or negative remarks about any aspect of the Library programs, facilities or services.
- We are grateful to Town Hall, especially the Tax Office, for making this a cooperative effort.

We believe that the fact that this survey reached every taxpayer in town is a positive community-wide outreach effort, whether or not the survey was actually completed and returned.

## WISH LIST FROM SURVEYS

1. Book discovery – Read-a-likes
2. More history, history of Hampton Falls
3. Our estuary area
4. Travel slides
5. Programs on Seacoast history
6. Jewelry-making (3)
7. Socials
8. Dedicated dark space for movie nights
9. More books on CD (2)
10. Reading programs
11. More books
12. Yoga, self-defense
13. Knitting, sewing
14. More non-fiction books
15. Foraging
16. Cooking ethnic foods
17. Cookbook Book Groups
18. Looped stereo system for the hearing impaired
19. Improve acoustics in Book Club meeting room (carpeting?)
20. Writing groups for adults
21. More local authors
22. Fireplace or woodstove for winter reading
23. Try one or two kid story/craft time on Saturday mornings or weekdays after 5PM
24. Bridge Groups
25. Way to electronically browse shelved titles by genre
26. More programs for middle school aged kids 9-12
27. More databases
28. More open hours on weekends and Mondays
29. Offer adult programs on other evenings than Tuesdays
30. More speakers for adults

## PROGRAMS

Food	33
Nature	65
History	49
Music	33
Authors	39
Crafts	31
Special Interests	5
Other	<i>See Previous Page</i>

## PROBLEMS

Parking	13
Sitting	11
Seeing speaker	7
Hearing speaker	9
Screen	6

## IMPORTANCE OF

	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
Comfortable Reading	27	17	13	10	5
Meeting space for adults	29	21	11	4	1
Meeting space for children	26	17	8	2	13
Meeting space for public use	23	18	14	4	6
Quiet study	19	10	13	9	13
Space for computers	14	7	13	15	12
Social events	17	22	19	4	2

Scale: 5 is most important, 1 is least important.