



# GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

## YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOCUS GROUP

### SUMMARY REPORT 2024

**FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS = 9** (6 IN PERSON AND 3 VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM)

Young Adult Advisory Council members met on Wednesday, January 31, to respond to questions asked by Teen Librarian Deb Dowson.

#### 1. WHAT ARE THE FIRST THREE (3) WORDS YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE LIBRARY?



- Books (2)
- Borrowing
- Events
- Free
- Great Stuff
- Programs
- Quiet
- Reading
- Study Space

#### 2. PLEASE IMAGINE YOUR IDEAL LIBRARY BUILDING: WHAT CHARACTERISTICS DOES YOUR IDEAL LIBRARY HAVE?

- Comic books on display.
- More carrels.
- Reading bike like at the high school (“I use it all the time.”).
- Small, quiet space for studying.
- Whiteboards in study space.

#### 3. WHAT TYPES OF RESOURCES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE US OFFER?

- Improve Wi-Fi (9): General public Wi-Fi is bad. All emphatically agree and have used personal hotspots as workarounds when they can’t connect or the network is slow.
- Book Truck/Ice Cream Truck to take to events. (3)
- Streaming Services (2): Hulu access || Streaming Movies
- Book Delivery: People don’t want to make a special trip just to pick up a book.
- Craft kits to loan.
- Tutoring: NHS Students could tutor middle school students like they do for High School students at the High School.

#### 4. LET'S TALK ABOUT THE LIBRARY'S ONLINE RESOURCES AND PRESENCE (WEBSITE, INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK, ETC.). HOW DO YOU USE THESE RESOURCES?

- **GPL APPLICATION:** The new phone app is much better than the old one. || Wish the phone app showed the month instead of one event at a time.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA:**
  - Instagram is the most popular platform with teens.
  - Library's social media is "slacking."
  - YouTube
    - We use YouTube the most. (2)
    - YouTube would be okay, but it needs longer video content.
    - We should NOT do Twitter or TikTok, but YouTube would be okay.
- **WEBSITE:** Visits the website to look for events (4) || The website is okay.
- **MISC. MARKETING-RELATED COMMENTS/IDEAS:**
  - Reach teens at the high school with flyers. No one reads the newsletters. (2)
  - No one would sign up for email.
  - More cooperation with the schools would help.

#### 5. TELL US HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT SERVING ON THE YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY COUNCIL (YAAC).

##### LIKE MOST:

- The council is "solid."
- I like offering advice.
- I like to find out what's going on.
- I like to tell people I am going to the "Council" meeting.
- I like earning volunteer hours so I can graduate.

##### LIKE LEAST:

- It can be a bit boring.
- The same people come every time.
- I see you (Teen Librarian) a lot anyway, so I can share ideas any time.

##### WHAT SHOULD YAAC DO TO BETTER SERVE LOCAL TEENS?

- Recruit more volunteers. Potential resources include Michael Brown, H.S. Guidance Counselor, and Suzanne D's mother at the middle school.
- Change up the graphics for the slides promoting the council.
- Do more at the meetings, like activities, instead of just meeting.

**YAAC MEETING TIME:** Hold it earlier (4) || Hold it later (3)

## 6. WHAT OTHER TYPES OF LIBRARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES MIGHT INTEREST YOU?

- Interested in just helping the Library.
- Babysit for parents so they can have a Parent's Night Out.
- Coding Class.
- Creative Writing Club.
- Flip Book Workshop.
- Webinar on how to make better social media content.
- Writing for a Video PSA.

## 7. THE LIBRARY IS MAKING EFFORTS TO REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH GROTON FEST, TWOMEY CENTER VISITS, AND SCHOOL VISITS. DO YOU HAVE OTHER IDEAS FOR WHERE AND HOW WE COULD REACH THE COMMUNITY?

- Collaborate with Periwinkle Glass Works
- Invite Local Non-Profits to speak
- Participate in Groton Fest's Spring Festival

## 8. WHAT CURRENT ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

- Environment (2)
- Disability Rights
- Mental Health (2)
- Global Warming

### IDEAS:

- **Gardening/Plants (5):** More indoor plants (3) || Events that involve gardening and planting outside. Make the garden and the Library look nice. || Snake plants are easy and only need to be watered once a month.
- **Mental Health (4):** Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR) || Coping strategies || Mental Health Programs || Spa Day
- **Misc. (1):** Trash pick-up on Mainstreet and Rail Trail

## 9. WHAT COULD THE LIBRARY DO TO BETTER SERVE LOCAL TEENS? WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR US?

- Final Exam Support: Stay open for extended hours on the Saturday before finals (twice a year). Have snacks (ice pops, chips, apples) (3)
- Lend out reading aids and have them available for on-site use.
- Offer noise-cancelling headphones.

**MISC. POSITIVE FEEDBACK (2):** The Library is doing great. || Two thumbs up.