

Hammel, Green and Abrahamson (HGA) Report
Milltown Public Library
Community Meetings
February 12, 2013 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm

This document records comments from participants in two community listening sessions regarding the vision for the new Milltown Public Library. The comments are grouped into three categories: program, character and sustainability.

Program

Children

- Educational for children
- Area for kids that isn't right by the front door
- Area for story times
- Art project/special topic learning area
- Milltown has good youth/teen programs

Teens

- Safe and flexible space for teens
- Many teen use the library in the afternoon when school is out

Adult

- Library is often used by local small businesses
- Separate quiet place for computer use
- Soft seating for quiet reading
- Good resource for community – computer & application assistance

General

- Milltown Library could be a destination library for Polk County & add an unique resource that is not found at other regional libraries (potential for a 3D printer, etc)
- Zone the library for different functions (quiet vs. social)
- Meeting rooms are needed for a variety of activities such as tutoring, book club meetings, group study/project rooms, events such as Village meetings, book signings, etc
- Drive up book drop is a good idea to explore
- Library should provide life-long learning classes about creating and health
- Many patrons come in to use the computers
- Video rental
- Special events and programs
- Showcase local art
- Support outdoor movie program
- Add to book collection
- Provide ample electrical connections for computers

Character

- Village character – small town, old-fashioned, caring community, rural, includes township
- More people coming from other places
- People come in to town to connect with other families and neighbors
- Library is one of the ways to bring people to town
- Library site design should reinforce the connection to Main Street
- Link to history center and to park
- A new library is a well-considered change for growth and vibrant community
- Add to people visiting Milltown businesses
- Incorporate park feeling
- Natural light/ outdoor area (deck/veranda)
- Maintain “good energy” of existing library
- Inviting space
- Incorporating a fireplace is welcoming
- Good quality space and experience
- Incorporate exterior space
- No extra money spent on “modern”
- Amery Library – comfortable quiet area, color, furniture, big library but not cold or huge
- “Homey feel” – St. Croix too cold
- Must be warm and inviting
- Library is a community gathering space and place to meet people
- Intuitive building must be easy to understand where to go once inside
- Usability and closeness of assistance – easy to use
- Library should incorporate appropriate material & design to address acoustical concerns & sound deadening

Sustainability

- Library should consider life cycle cost and energy efficiency during design process
- Environmentally friendly materials should be used such as low or no VOC paints, no off-gassing materials, efficient heating and ventilation systems
- Explore radiant floor heat instead of forced air
- Consider sustainable features such as solar panels and arrays that are move with sun position, wind power and rainwater collection
- Does sustainability add opportunity for additional grants
- Consider skylights to bring natural light to the interior of the building
- Priority for local trades and regional materials