

After these meetings were held, a survey was developed. There was a mix of satisfaction questions, top priorities of what people would like to do in general and at the library as well as open-ended questions about the library and the community. There were 835 responses to the survey. A complete summary of the survey can be found in Appendix A.

The 2nd meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was April 29, 2023. The purpose of this meeting was to review all the input that had been gathered during the previous meetings and the survey results. The group was also asked to look at the mission statement, vision statement and goals from the current strategic plan and brainstorm how they would improve or change these three things.

On June 7, 2023, there was a meeting with the Library Administration and Ms. Hoadley to review all the information and go over their thoughts on what they would like to see in the plan and any questions they had about the information gathered. Another meeting to review the working draft of the plan was held on July 10th.

The Board of Library Trustees, on September 18, 2023 unanimously approved this plan. Terese Stano, Library Director, submitted the plan to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) in compliance with the minimum standards and regulations for Massachusetts's libraries. Library Administration will report progress in the plan at Trustee Board meetings.

The information gathered from everyone is instrumental in creating a plan that has the community at the center and will guide library services and programs in the near future. The plan is intended to be a working document and be adaptable and flexible enough to withstand the ever-changing landscape of public libraries for years to come.

Assessment of Community Needs

As mentioned above, community members had a chance to volunteer and be part of the Community Planning Group, Library Staff and Trustees were part of the focus groups and there was a Strategic Planning Survey done. It is estimated that almost 1,000 people participated in total.

Based on the feedback gathered, here are the highlights of what people said about the library and what the needs of the community are currently and where the Braintree Master Plan is focusing their priorities for a community vision. A summary of the survey results can be found in Appendix A.

S.O.A.R. Exercise

Strengths

Building

Collection – physical & digital

Staff

Opportunities

Partnerships

Teen/tween space, programs & engagement

Outreach – embedded in community

New audiences – programs

Marketing

Aspirations

Outreach – building expansion, mobile

Space redesign

Broaden expertise and skills sets needed in the future

Results

Teen space

Connections with community and people involved in the library

Budget and money to support projects and staff development

Best library for its size

Increased community and library pride

Highlights:

“Innovative leader”

In time of disaster, library is seen as community leader

People with higher literacy skills have more opportunities, recognition and experience