

Wolfeboro Town Hall's  
Second Floor Future Uses Forum  
November 13, 2012

On November 13, 2012 The Friends of the Wolfeboro Town Hall hosted a *"Future Uses Forum for Wolfeboro Town Hall's Second Floor."* Over 30 people representing 20 area nonprofits and local government attended.

Friend's Board member and moderator Blair Moffet opened the forum by asking participants to introduce themselves and to address the following questions:

- What meeting space does your organization currently use?
- What are your future program and meeting space needs/wants?
- If the space at Town Hall were available to the community, how might you use it?

Below are the responses from the representatives of each group:

**Clearlakes Chorale** - Andy Campbell

NOW Meet at Brewster Academy weekly/ 2 concerts yearly at St Katharine Drexel

FUTURE BMH second floor perfect size for rehearsals and small size concerts or musicals

Brewster did Godspell in 1996 in the second floor space

**Lakes Region Planning Commission** - Roger Murray

NOW The Commission holds meetings in government buildings around the region.

FUTURE The LRPC needs a meeting place for up to 60 people - Second floor is the right size. Would need audio visual hook ups. Could do training and other programs as well

**Lake Wentworth Association & Lake Wentworth Foundation** – Roger Murray

NOW meet at Anderson Hall - need a space for 60 to 70 people, usually on Saturdays

FUTURE second floor would be an ideal meeting place.

**Wolfeboro Public Library** Mike Hodder, Prue Fitts, Linda Wilberton, Trustees  
NOW Current programs such as special children's programs and the film programs are sometimes cramped and/or uncomfortable in the library's meeting room. Desirable events are limited due to lack of meeting space. The library often limits publicity of children's events due to fear of overcrowding  
FUTURE Second floor would provide a larger space for some library programs. A movie screen and proper audio visual equipment would be needed. Also, the space would have been ideal for a program such as the Lyme Disease Symposium which was held at the Kingswood Arts Center. Space needs to be accessible.

**Friends of the Wolfeboro Public Library** - Inger Woerheide

NOW Friends meetings are held in the meeting room or in the main library. The Friends sponsor New Hampshire Humanities Council programs every year and at times they have been too crowded in the current library meeting room.  
FUTURE Use of second floor would allow more flexibility in programming and could attract a larger audience.

**Great Waters Music Festival** - John van Lonkhuyzen, Michael Harrison

NOW Use their office at Peoples Bank for meetings  
FUTURE Sometimes they have larger meetings (60 to 70 people) and could consider using the second floor. Need a central location and a visible location. Rehearsal space for vocal and instrumental programs. Accessible by boat via town docks. Could use the second floor for volunteer orientations. Need AV access.

**Wolfeboro Garden Club** - Joe Carilli (for Carol Carilli, President), Inger Woerheide

NOW Use the Episcopal Church  
FUTURE Could use the second floor, but need a kitchen and an accessible facility, need plenty of parking.

**L.I.F.E. Ministries Food Pantry** - Joe Carilli

NOW Currently all food pantry services and board meetings are held at All Saints Outreach Building.  
FUTURE Could use for meetings with other food pantries (larger group). Needs to be accessible and have ample parking available

**Wolfeboro Chamber of Commerce** - Mary DeVries, Executive Director  
No specific comments

**Town of Wolfeboro Department of Parks and Recreation**

Ethan Hipple, Director

NOW Have mainly outdoor programs. For indoor programs – currently use Carpenter School. It is sometimes difficult to find good times to schedule programs using schools.

FUTURE Would like to expand indoor programs and have movies. Have talked with library staff about future joint programming. Second floor would be a good space for these programs.

**Wolfeboro Area Recreation Association - Holly Williams**

NOW programs are all at The Nick

FUTURE Could possibly use it in the future for a retreat or other uses.

**Friends of Abenaki Ski Area - Holly Williams**

NOW Use Maxfield Real Estate Office for meetings.

FUTURE Need a bigger space for some meetings - second floor would be suitable.

**Wright Museum - John Warner**

NOW Use the Wright Museum for lectures, events

FUTURE Could use the second floor for larger lectures (100 plus). Good visible location in the center of town.

**Caregivers of Southern Carroll County - Joan DeCelle**

NOW Board meetings are held at the Congregational Church and All Saints.

FUTURE Could have additional programs for larger groups such as volunteer luncheons. Need a kitchen and elevator.

**Town of Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen**

Dave Bowers, Linda Murray, Sarah Silk, Chuck Storm

NOW Difficult to find meeting rooms and space to offer to groups in Wolfeboro. Board of Selectmen and other town boards and committees need space.

Community Center is used frequently, as well as the churches.

FUTURE Second floor would provide good meeting space and voting could return to Town Hall. Need good lighting, an accessible location (elevator), kitchen, meeting space for 50 to 100, warm space, audio visual equipment, possibly a permanent set up for Community TV.

**New Hampshire Lakes Association - Susan Goodwin**

NOW Have meeting space

FUTURE Would use for board meetings and committee meetings and retreats.

**Girl Scouts - Briar Lambert**

NOW Meet in various locations

FUTURE Would like to have a space for events - second floor would be a good space for programs for their 120 members like team-building and confidence-building events. Need a kitchen.

**G.A.L.A. Global Action Local Awareness – Josh Arnold**

NOW Hold workshops and events in various locations

FUTURE Second floor would be a good space for various workshops, film screenings, study circles and other G.A.L.A. events.

**Town of Wolfeboro Dept. of Planning & Development - Rob Houseman, Director**

NOW Difficult to find meeting space to accommodate all of their needs

FUTURE There is a need for a large space for public forums (Planning Board activities and others). The Town would control this space. Need to be able to hear well. Could have moveable partitions.

**Appalachian Mountain Teen Project - David Lynch**

NOW Use various locations for programs

FUTURE Second floor will be a great space for some of their programs

**Breakout Groups**

After each representative addressed these questions, the group was re-organized into 6 smaller breakout groups for an imagining and brainstorming session.

Members of the Friends Board acted as listeners/reporters for each group.

Groups were asked to choose the most important future uses of the second floor and issues related to its use.

**Uses, Issues and Questions Identified by Breakout Groups**

**Uses**

Take advantage of the multipurpose aspect of the second floor

The space needs to be flexible for multiple uses

Good location and space for concerts, lectures and other similar events.  
Good space and location for not for profit programs  
Good location for recreational programs and children's programs  
Destination place - Art shows, garden (flower) shows  
State, Regional, Local Governmental uses  
Musical performances (recitals)  
Entertaining space - need beer and wine license  
Senior Center needs a permanent home so congregate meals can be served  
Good location for wedding receptions, showers and other similar events  
Good location for Parks and Recreation programs - after school programs, dance programs.  
Voting and other Town Government related meeting space  
Off season farmers markets

### **Design items to Consider**

Accessibility  
Adequate kitchen  
Elevator - elevator needs to be big enough to transport musical equipment and other items necessary for performances.  
Storage space for groups  
Adequate lighting and plenty of electrical outlets  
Place to hang coats.  
WI FI  
Surround sound  
Technology needs  
Loud speakers  
Ceiling projector  
Dimmable lights  
Retractable movie screen  
Air conditioning  
Increased power capacity for sound systems  
Portable stage  
Ceiling fans  
Changing tables in the bathrooms  
Parking

### **Policy Questions**

Would not-for-profit groups need to have their own insurance policy to use the facility  
Can temporary liquor licenses be obtained

Would not for profit groups need to pay a fee to use the space

**Conclusion**

Participants were thanked for their input and invited to send along additional comments to The Friends of Wolfeboro Town Hall Chair Joyce Davis at [jndavis@metrocast.net](mailto:jndavis@metrocast.net)