Mission Statement (Revised 6-11-07)

The Cook Memorial Library will provide educational, cultural, and recreational material and programs to the local community. The library will be a resource for research and study, a comfortable place for leisure reading and browsing, and a center for community activities.

OBJECTIVES
I. To operate the library in accordance with New Hampshire Library Laws and to strive to meet current public library standards set by the American Library Association and the New Hampshire State Library Development System.

II. To provide a broad range of educational, cultural, recreational, and informational material responsive to the needs and interests of the community, including electronic access to information resources.

III. To provide and maintain up-to-date library facilities of appropriate size and content to meet the current needs of the community.

IV. To cooperate with local schools, school libraries, and community organizations whenever possible.

V. To cooperate with other public libraries individually and as a member of cooperative groups including the Bearcamp Valley Library Association, the Carroll County Library Cooperative, and the Carroll County Tech Group.

VI. To determine future needs for library services and plan for meeting those needs.

History of Cook Memorial Library

Tamworth is unique in its literary background and library history. The Tamworth Social Library, one of the four earliest in the state of New Hampshire, was founded by Parson Samuel Hidden in 1796 and was supported in its entirety by the pioneer members of this small, northern New Hampshire wilderness village. Then in 1891, the New Hampshire legislature approved the Free Library Act, appointing a State Library commission, and authorizing benefits to New Hampshire towns for the purpose of establishing free, public libraries. In February 1892, the Tamworth town warrant included an article “…to see if the town will vote to accept the provision of law, chapter 8, section 21-26, in regard to having a public library in town.” In his dedication speech for the library which was built in summer of 1895, Larkin Mason said “…there is not a town on the face of the earth, of the same number of inhabitants (1,000), no larger inventory of property ($250,000) that can show such a record for intelligence and good morals.” Both permanent and summer residents gave gifts of books to supplement the small
collection housed in this new and very lovely Victorian building, with its stained glass windows and the clock in the small tower. The building has been since renovated twice, in 1981 and 2001 (Phase 2 in 2005.)

**Current Profile of Cook Memorial Library**

Cook Memorial Library is a well-run library, delivering a wide variety of services to its rural community. Some of its notable strengths include a strong, well organized and motivated board of trustees, a stable, well-trained, and enthusiastic staff, a recently renovated (2005), modern and functional facility, a well-managed collection of 28,000 library materials, a dynamic and well-planned roster of over 100 yearly programs for all ages, an adequate computer network of eight public use computers and six staff computers with 24/7/365 wireless available inside and outside the library, a strong online presence with a dynamic library website as well as active Flickr, Twitter and Facebook accounts, and extensive and well-maintained local history collections.

Cook Memorial Library meets all, and surpasses many, of the qualitative standards recommended by New Hampshire State Library, for libraries of its size, providing an enhanced level of services. CML’s circulation per capita, at 11.93 is nearly double the national average of 6, proving that its community is actively appreciative of its library services. Over a hundred formal community meetings take place at the library each year, as well as many more informal meetings – it is the center of the community. Library policies are complete, up-to-date, and reviewed every three years.

Since completion in 2005 of the renovation/addition, the condition of the building and its related systems are regularly monitored. Warranties are still in effect on all structural work completed as part of the building project. Routine building maintenance and repair is funded through the library’s annual operating budget.

As a building on the Historic Register and recipient of NH LCHIP (Land & Community Heritage Investment Program) funding, yearly inspections are conducted on all safety equipment, electrical and heating systems, fire and security alarms, etc. The results of these inspections are reported to the CML Board and to the state through the Historic Resources Annual Monitoring Report. Any item needing attention is addressed immediately. The Town of Tamworth recently had an energy audit conducted on town buildings, and the result was high praise for the many energy-efficient approaches that have been incorporated into the library. The library reviews and updates a Disaster Plan every year.

The library requests $2,000 each year at town meeting to build a capital reserve fund, which now has approximately $15,000 in it. This frugal approach by the board recognizes that, despite all of our efforts to maintain the building, there will no doubt come a time in the next 5-10 years
that will likely require a significant expenditure to repair, replace, improve or otherwise maintain the library’s infrastructure.

Below is a list of current facts:

- Despite the population of Tamworth remaining relatively stable (2515 in 2000, 2643 in 2008), since the 2001 renovation, library circulation and attendance have doubled, and computer use has quintupled.
- Total 2009 Budget: $124,106.00; Town appropriation: $111,203.00 ($42 per capita)
- 2009 Library Materials Budget: $10,500.00 (? in 2001)
- 2009 Circulation: 31,600 (Circulation per capita is 11.93, nearly twice the national average of 6)
- Physical visits in 2009: 17,874
- Virtual visits in 2009 to www.tamworthlibrary.org: 21,703.
  36% of these visits were direct traffic (repeat visitors who know the website and have it bookmarked), 46% from search engines (which can search our beta test catalog www.scriblio.org), 18% from referring sites (other people’s websites, blogs, tweets, etc.)
- Eight public access computers, plus open (not passworded) wireless since 2005. In 2009, we recorded 4,382 computer sessions, and an additional 1,124 on wireless inside the library (We don’t try to count the 24/7 use on the street outside). In 2009, 930 patrons checked out materials, but in addition, many others came in for computers, programming (103 programs were presented with 2,033 people attending), and meetings, both formal and informal (131 meetings with 1,091 in attendance).
- Open 10-8 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10-5 on Friday and 10-4 on Saturday for a total of 33 open hours in four days each week. Chocorua Library is open on the alternate weekdays.
- 6 part-time staff, who have all been employed at the library for 4 to 14 years, work a total of 88 hours per week (2.2 FTEs,) with an additional weekly average of 8 volunteer hours, performing a variety of support tasks.
- 0% are professional librarians (MLS), although four have masters’ degrees in other disciplines, and all have undergraduate degrees.
- The current economic recession has increased the community’s need for library services.