

This is part two of the three part new library proposal

THE BUILDING

Fundamental Orientations that created the building

1. Preserve the rural nature of the town. We took the Preamble to the 2003 Town of Waterboro Comprehensive Plan seriously. The desire that future growth enhance the rural nature of Waterboro informed our planning from the beginning. We did that in several ways: We maintained a tree line around the entire perimeter of the property; we created a small “park” between the parking lot and entrance to the library; the design of the building suggests the “building added to buildings” look that is so prevalent in the community; the siding will be clapboard.

2. We were conscious that we are creating a building that will serve the town for decades. It is a building that the library will grow into. Many of the services the Trustees hope to provide may not become reality for many years in the future. The Maine Library Standards requires that a library for a town of 10,000 people have 35,000 volumes. The main room provides space for future stacks that will accommodate that number of volumes. There will be space for future generations to add to the building and to do so in a way that maintains the integrity of the design.

3. The quality of the building. The design deliberately set out to create a design that had a beauty to it. We wanted the building itself to contribute to the stimulation of our imaginations. In our choice of materials we chose neither the top of the line nor the least expensive. We chose things that we would look good and last in order to decrease future maintenance cost. At the same time, the Building Committee worked to minimize upfront construction costs. It was not an easy process.

4. Environmental consciousness. The building faces the sun so that we can maximize the heat of the sun as much as possible to lower energy use and heating costs. We are using high quality insulation to keep heat in during the winter and out during the summer. We chose to use propane as a source of fuel because it burns the cleanest of the heating fuels and at least for now is least expensive.

5. The library is more than the circulation of books.

It is that and indeed that is a crucial function of the library. That is even truer when we are living in difficult economic situations. If a parent wants their children to read, the library provides free access to unlimited number of books. If the adult loves to read, books are available to provide that pleasure in numbers far in excess of anything they could afford themselves. With the presence of interlibrary loan program, what is available far exceeds the 22,000 volumes presently in our library. However, the modern library is more than that.

The library provides **access to technology** for those who lack even the basic internet services as well as to those who need specific software programs. These programs are often too expensive for individuals to purchase and the library makes them available. Our computers are frequently in use. Even in communities more affluent than our own, there are waiting times to get on computers. They are used to search for jobs, write papers, do research and find great recipes.

Library programs **stimulate the imagination and the inner joy that comes with the experience of something beautiful.** Programs for children, like story hour and other reading programs, crafts and informative programs stimulate their young imaginations. Providing access to fiction and non-fiction stimulate adult enjoyment of intellectual and aesthetic experience.

Library programs also build a sense of community. Book discussion groups, outside speakers, crafts programs continue the process of life long learning in the context of a community of people with similar interests. We live in fragmented culture and people desire the opportunity to connect with others with similar interests. The library provides that opportunity for people with intellectual and aesthetic interest.

Library as public building contributes to the development of a vibrant town. I was given an article recently that discussed the role of public buildings in the development of a vibrant town center. The author concludes: “Many communities have seen economic and social benefits when the post office, the municipal building, the public library and other important public buildings stay or expand downtown. Conversely, when they leave, the fabric knitting downtown together can start to unravel.” (Philip Langdon “Public Buildings Keep Town Center Alive” in Planning Commissioners Journal, Number 49, Winter 2003, p.7) . The article got me thinking of the library as a public building. Between Town Hall and Hannaford is a corridor in which many public buildings are located. This corridor holds Town Hall, Taylor House, Fire Station, two schools. The new library and Town hall would be the bookends of a municipal complex in Waterboro.

The Building

The New Waterboro Public Library will be a 9,200 sq. ft building located on route 5 adjacent to the Middle School. Visitors will come to the library off route 5. The trees around the parameter of the land have been maintained and there will be a small park like area between the entrance and the building. There will be a roadway up close to the door so people can be dropped off. There will be a parking area. The site will be raised 4 feet so that drainage will be controlled to protect the wet-lands at the back of the property.

The building will have shingle roofing, wood cedar shingle siding and cement clapboard siding. The building will have radiant heating, using propane, and insulated with spray foam.

It will have several sections:

ADULT AREAS

These areas will provide chairs to curl up in as well as tables and chairs for study and research. There will be the capacity for both wired and wireless internet availability. This library will have various newspapers and periodicals and a space to leisurely read them. The Maine Library Standards requires 35,000 volumes for a town of 10,000 people. Waterboro will be within that population range in the next decade. We have provided space to expand to that capacity over the years. In addition the stacks will be wide enough and low enough to make them handicap accessible.

PROGRAMMING AND MEETING SPACE

The meeting room has space for 50 people. It is slightly larger than the present Selectmen's meeting room at Town Hall. It will be used for library programs for adults (presentations by authors, artists, for instance) and some children's programs that require a different kind of space. The space will be available for Town committees and other groups. It can be accessed without going through the library and therefore will be available even when the library is closed. This meeting and programming room has the potential to produce income for the Town of Waterboro.

ARTISTIC SPACE

The walls outside these rooms are designed so that they can be used to exhibit works of local artists. Other spaces throughout the library will also be able to be used for that purpose.

CHILDREN SPACE

The children will have their own space separate from the adult space. The furniture and bathrooms will be age appropriately sized. Children's books and educational games will be available. There will be space for group activities (story hour), craft activities and computer use.

TEEN SPACE

This room will have age appropriate books that will be of interest to young people. There will be tables for homework and computers for research and writing. The interior wall will have a large window so the room will be supervised.

FUTURE USE

Your grandchildren will find this library too small. The library was designed in such way that future additions can be added in decades to come and maintain an artistic integrity to the building

This library building is an investment by the people of Waterboro in the quality of life for decades to come providing the opportunity to create a communal center built around the intellectual and cultural aspects of life. It will be a place to see information via the internet, work or read for pleasure in a quiet place, stimulate our imaginations and meet with other people in town as the programs expand.