

Project Overview History

The planning process for the library expansion project began more than ten years ago. In 2001 the Library Board of Trustees purchased the adjacent lot on 9 Church Street with plans to expand the library. Over the last several years, the Trustees have invested approximately \$110, 000 to retain a library consultant, architect, and project manager to assist in the application process for a library construction grant.

In May 2010 the library building, which had been privately owned by the Library Board of Trustees since 1895, was transferred to the town as a gift from the Trustees. This transfer was a requirement for the application of the construction grant which stipulated that the land on which a library builds or expands must be owned by the town.

In July 2010 a Permanent Building Committee (PBC) was formed by the Selectmen to take charge of the library expansion project. Along with the Library Trustees, the PBC has worked closely with the architect, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Capital Improvement Committee, Historic District Commission, Design Review Board and interested members of the community to move the project forward.

There has been a great deal of thought, planning and discussion about what the library should look like, how it should function for patrons and staff, and how it should fit in its downtown location. The design evolved through this process and was approved by the Selectmen in January 2011.

The grant application was submitted to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) on January 27, 2011. Grant recipients will be announced in July 2011.

A Brief History of the Library

- The Hopkinton Public Library was established in 1890 and the current building was built in 1895 with contributions from local and former residents of Hopkinton. Population was about 3,000 residents.
- The second floor was used as a lecture hall and was remodeled later as a Children's room.
- In 1955, the town government began appropriating public funds for employee salaries, utilities and assistance with the purchase of books.
- In 1967, the library expanded with the purchase of the Episcopal Church. A gallery was built to connect the library building to the Church.
- At nearly 5,000 square feet, our library is one of the smallest libraries in the state.
- Hopkinton currently has over 15,000 residents.

REASONS TO EXPAND

- Due to an increase in population, the current building lacks adequate space to provide basic public library services
- The children's room is not accessible with strollers and wheelchairs
- Library collection is limited due to the lack of space
- There is insufficient space to hold library programs
- Lack of meeting rooms for library and the community
- No quiet study area
- Inadequate parking

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO EXPANDING THE LIBRARY?

- A community gathering place--for all residents—that fosters life-long learning
- Expanded space for technology resources, including computer workstations and Wi-Fi access
- Children's room with space to include larger play area and separate story time/program room
- Increased space for books, magazines, and multi-media items such as audio books, DVDs and music CDs
- Meeting rooms for library and community use.
- Young Adult room with computers, reading area & possibly gaming and music-listening area
- Historical room for local history & genealogy collection and research/reading area
- Fully handicapped accessibility
- Improved parking