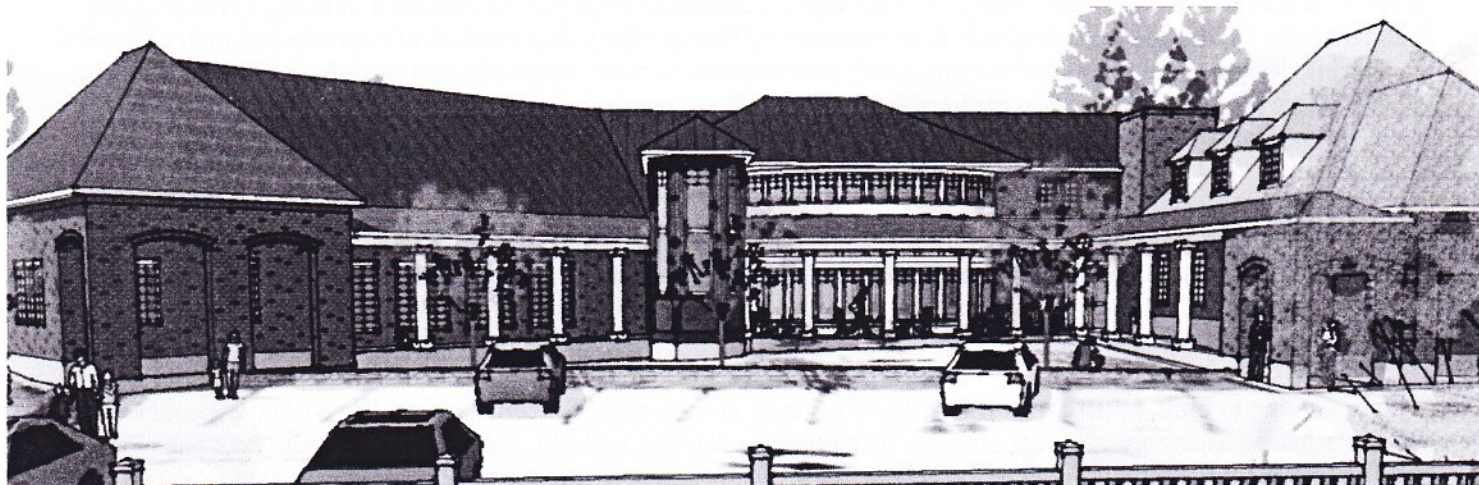


ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW LIBRARY



Why do we need a new library?

Quite simply, the current Durham Public Library is too small to meet the needs, demands and desires of residents for printed material, electronic information, and programming and community space. The new Durham Public Library will be an active, vibrant cultural center connecting the people of our Town to information, resources, enriching activities and to each other. The current Durham Public Library, located in a rented storefront in the Mill Plaza, was always intended to be temporary space that would be replaced by a stand-alone facility owned by the Town. After years of searching for a permanent site, Dr. Arthur DiMambro's property at 49 Madbury Rd was selected. An addition attached to the existing house, with its 2.8 acres of land, will meet the growing library needs of Durham residents and address many of the deficiencies of the Mill Plaza location such as lack of children's and young adult areas, reading rooms, meeting, study, and conference rooms, space for collection growth, and workspace. Also, the current library pays \$56,500/year for rent and related charges (meaning over \$750,000 during the course of the lease) that will be better invested in library operations.

The current location was never intended as a permanent site and was never sized to address the community's needs that have grown rapidly over the past 14 ½ years while the space has not increased. The library is not ADA-compliant and, therefore, not accessible to all, has only one unisex bathroom that also doubles as storage, has too few public computers, doesn't have meeting space or staff work room, privacy or enough shelves to house the current collection despite the increased demand for new material in a variety of formats.

Isn't the current library sufficient, given the other available libraries, like UNH and the school libraries?

Durham Public Library serves the citizenry of Durham in ways that academic and school libraries cannot. A public library provides a broad spectrum of materials in a various formats – bestsellers, DVDs, books on CD, eBooks – to meet the needs of the general public, and offers programming for children, young adults, and adults. The UNH library's purpose is centered on academic materials and research, while the Oyster River school libraries serve only the younger portion of the population and are closed evenings, weekends and all school breaks.

Why not rely on e-books and interlibrary loan for expansion?

E-books and audiobooks are great tools that will impact our future, but books in print will be with us for quite some time. Book sales and book circulations are up nationally, and since 2005, materials loaned by the Durham Public Library increased 80%. Many towns throughout New Hampshire have recently expanded or built new libraries. Each one experienced significant growth in use, the ability to provide more activities and programs, and created an active center for community engagement – something eBooks and interlibrary loans cannot accomplish.

Isn't this project too large for Durham in comparison to similar communities?

With wide community input, the library Trustees and the building committee developed a building space program that called for 13,300 square feet which, through a careful design effort, was reduced to the proposed plan of 10,500 sf. During design, visits were paid to other small communities in New Hampshire that have built libraries recently. Most of them are somewhere between 10,000 sf and 15,000 sf., confirming that our design is now the right size for the Town of Durham. In fact, the new library will be below the New Hampshire average size for a town of our population.

Approximately one-third of this space will house the collection and two-thirds will be "people space" for patrons and staff, underscoring our vision for the library as a community resource center to serve all ages all year round.

How "green" will the new building be?

We are seeking to build a LEED-level facility, whether or not we apply for certification. We will investigate such "green" systems as energy-efficient digitally controlled mechanical systems, lighting systems with occupancy and day lighting sensors, full audio/visual capability in the meeting rooms. Maintenance costs can be kept to a minimum with durable exterior finishes that are easy to maintain and a highly insulated building envelope. In addition, well-insulated windows will provide abundant natural light and views to the surrounding landscape.

Won't it cost more to run a bigger library?

Yes, the larger space will require some additional staff, more technology needs and higher energy expenses but those will be almost entirely offset by saving the \$56,500+ a year that the library currently pays in rent. The operating costs are expected to increase between \$13,500 and \$15,000 a year for the same hours the current library is open. However, residents will have the added benefit of the large community room with a 100 person capacity being available at times when the library is closed.

What will this do to my taxes?

The total project budget of \$4.8 million includes everything to create the new library – buying the property, construction, furniture, up-to-date media and technology equipment including wireless access throughout, appliances for the kitchen adjacent to the community room, design fees, moving, project management, and contingency funds in case unforeseen problems are encountered during construction. Nearly one-half of the cost has already been raised through private donations from residents, foundations and grants. Therefore, the requested municipal bond will be no greater than \$2.6 million and may be lower as the Capital Campaign committee continues to raise funds.

The increase in operational costs plus the annual repayment of the bond will result in an approximate 1% increase to residents' current total tax bills. For example, a property assessed at \$300,000 will have a tax increase of about \$35 per tax payment period or \$70 a year.

What's the rush? Can't we wait and build in a few years?

There is an urgency in moving forward with this project. Our current rented space is not a long term solution for our library, and we have no control over how long it will remain available to us. Construction costs are extremely reasonable right now and interest rates on bonds are at a near-historic low, but they are predicted to rise over the next year. This means we get a much greater value for each dollar we spend if we move forward now rather than putting it off until later.

For additional information, please visit the Library website at www.durhampubliclibrary.org

Town election on bond March 13 at Oyster River High School 7 AM – 7 PM

Durham Public Library – Facts about the New Library

THE BUILDING

- 2/3s of the new building is people space because that is what is so lacking in our current library.
- It will serve all ages, all year around – truly a center of the community.
- Community room for 100, with multi-media equipment and display space for a wide range of programs and activities (~~it can be used even when the library is closed~~)
- 2,900 square feet for the children's library, activity and storyroom
- Durham Heritage reading room and Internet café with light refreshments
- A collection of up to 40,000 books, dvd's, and audio books (33% more than today)
- 24 computer work stations throughout the facility
- A conference room for groups up to 20 and 2 quiet study rooms
- A space for teens with a multi-media lounge and reading area
- Outdoor gardens, conservation space, bike racks and 50 parking spaces
- Sustainable architecture incorporating LEED-level standards for cost saving and efficiency
- Downtown location walkable to schools, local businesses, and several family neighborhoods

THE COSTS

The total project budget includes everything to create the new library – buying the property, construction, furniture, design fees, moving, project management, and contingency funds – the total cost is \$4.8m.

This will result in a facility that is a good long term value because it will have lower maintenance, more energy efficient, and more enduring

We have succeeded our fund raising goal of \$900,000 – we are now at \$1,050,000. Over 375 separate gifts have been received. With the \$1,200,000 the library had previously received, a total of over \$2,250,000 of private money will help pay for the new library (this is about 45% of the total cost).

The vote on March 13th is for approval of a municipal of bond of up to \$2,600,000.

Today the cost of running the library is about 1% of our property tax rate. The increase in operational costs plus the annual payment of the bond will result in an increase of only 1% to the tax rate, resulting in a total cost of the library being about 2% of our taxes. Most public libraries are between 1-3%.

THE SCHEDULE

We can't postpone this project because construction costs are extremely reasonable now and are projected to rise significantly in the next year. Bond interest rates are very low and can only go up. By doing it now we get more for our money than if we wait.

Our library is busier than ever. Over the past five years patron visits circulation of materials have both increased 80%! We expect that when the new library opens this will go up even more.

When the bond is passed we will reengage with the design/build team to complete the design process with construction expected to begin this summer and be completed during the summer of 2013.