



Trustees Finalize Design for Durham's New Library

7 Mill Rd. - Unit H Durham, New Hampshire

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The Durham Town Board of Library Trustees announced last Friday that they have finalized the design for a new library, which is estimated to cost the town just under \$2.7 million. A bond vote seeking town approval could be on the ballot in March 2012.

"For the past six months the Trustees have worked with a library consultant, a design-build team, an all-volunteer Citizens Review Committee, and the town's elected leadership to plan for the new library," said Board Vice Chair Jenna Roberts. "Citizen input has been sought at every step, and continues to be vital to the project," she said.

The size of the library is expected to be about 10,500 square feet, somewhat smaller than originally planned, although larger than the cramped 3,000 square feet of the current library. "We're very pleased that we could incorporate all the needs of the library in a smaller space than originally projected," said Doug Bencks, Board Chair. "We've been very cost conscious, and this adjustment allows us to keep the cost to the town the same as the CIP estimate we made last year."

When the town voted in 1997 to move the library from UNH's Dimond Library to the storefront in Mill Plaza, it was intended to be a short-term solution until a more suitable location could be found. More than 20 sites were researched, but all had insurmountable obstacles.

Finally, in early September of last year, using funds provided by private donors over the years, the Town Council unanimously voted to purchase the handsome home of Dr. Arthur DiMambro, along with 2.8 acres of land.

Located at 49 Madbury Road, the attractive brick building and its park-like setting are situated near the middle and high schools and a short distance from the downtown business area. "This is such a beautiful and convenient setting for the new library," said Luci Gardner, President of the Friends of the Library, and a former *Trustee*. "After fourteen years, we've finally found a permanent home for the library."

The Trustees expect to add another \$2.1 million from private sources for the library project, more than half of which has already been raised.

If all proceeds according to plan, the new library will open in the spring or summer of 2013. The finalized conceptual building designs and more detailed information can be found at www.durhampubliclibrary.org.

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