

Notes from Community Forum Break Out Groups November 19, 2015

Group 1

- How big a library do we really need?
 - Space for teens should be separate from adults
 - Teens use the adult room now and go into the kids room – noisy
 - And there are no study rooms
- Have you considered electronic reading?
- A big issue now is parking
 - Daytime there is no parking
 - People can park at town hall but have to cross the street
- Like the idea of outdoor reading space
- Program room is desirable – can do programs that currently can't happen
- Market street has nice open spaces but commercial
- Like the idea of a courtyard – can let kids outside in a controlled way
- Can the outbuildings at the golf course be incorporated?
- I love the library, but would like to see a new library
 - More space for young kids – middle and elementary ages
 - Meeting Space
 - Parking
 - Outdoor space
- Currently go to other towns
- Get kids in young – lifelong learners
- Excited – thinking about cost
- What happens to the existing building?
- There will be efforts to stop
- Current library feels crowded, dark and fluorescent
- Public not retail space
- Make vivacious
- New building is a great possibility
 - A place for the town to view with pride – a showcase
 - Access for people of all abilities
 - Community room – author's talk
- I think it is a great investment
- Library is the most important building in town because it is a public resource, free and welcomes all generations
- A crown jewel in the town
- Visits on a weekly basis
- Has any consideration been given to the property behind the library?
- No future buildings – would be too crowded on site
- Gazebo and open lawn at town green
- Imagine a contemplative space

- Wakefield – has a little green and they have jazz concerts on steps
- Peabody mansion – pond gazebo path with signs telling the story
- How to develop support?
 - Get the schools involved
- Is there a way to scale to budget?

Group 2

- Current
 - Take out books
 - Library atmosphere
 - Love libraries – to go get stuff
 - Newsletters, magazines, order books – used
 - Parking hard
 - Fundraiser – didn't have enough room – need space
- What's up with new developments?
- Exciting possibilities – meetings, groups
- What more can we be? Esp. in new setting
- Ex. Seattle- changed definition of library
- Reedy Meadow better- more open space
- Watched library from very small to now
- Teens move & appropriate adult spaces
- Staff terrific- facility good
- Groups to have small informal meeting rooms
- Create smaller quiet spaces
- Groups
 - Library has list of 15-18 groups who have called asking for meeting space
 - Ex. Committees, art, etc.
 - Big need for meeting space
- Outgrown current space
- Problems in current space – ex. Basement
- What works for our community?
- Loud & quiet – Not just about the books – 3000(?) – high # of people who walk through the library doors
- Renovated libraries see big jumps in use numbers
- Existing building won't last 10+ years
- About the social – talking, meeting
- Vision future- what we could have
- What's the long-term town plan?
 - How can we tie-in to that?
 - Connect golf courses, center?
 - L.T. plan – 15 years old
- Member of Friends
 - Key to town
 - Takes care of all ages – preschool through seniors
 - Why isn't everyone a Friend? – pays for extras

- Focal point of town
- Planning board
 - Need more room
 - New library creates more room & w/old library
 - Only way we can get outside funding for Building project (can't get w/police, fire, town hall)
- Competing with other towns for funding – vision, planning helps get at top of list
- Coffee
- Quiet, spaces & meeting – program spaces
- Technology/ Better parking (esp. during bad weather)
- During construction, no dislocation of current library
- Quiet spaces – for seniors
- Current – count of teenagers & young families to forecast numbers of users & estimate accurately the need – not overbuild
- Emergency shelter space? – civil defense info
- Town green – big fair outdoors
- Performance space
- Bandstand
- Possible old library use – rehab for town offices
- Friends storage space
- Green initiatives – solar?
- Coffee shop between library and golf course
- Glass wall out back to take in green space view
- Front facing Summer St. should have Colonial Village feel
 - Pitched roof?
 - Fireplace?
- Drive thru?

Group 3

- Like to see a separate room for kids to study & collaborate (middle school kids) –to talk and stay until parents pick them up
- New kids space would be very helpful
- Nice to have kids come to interact at library
- Some like the library the way it is now
- How will electronic readers affect the need for space?
- Sometimes not gone there because of parking issues – goes round and round
- Need outdoor space to convene in
- Like idea of separate program room
- Goes to FL in winter
 - Loves program room where people enjoy different things
 - Like open feeling – well used
- Program room a major need for LFD
- Understand needs, but have questions
 - Would you scale your architecture to conform to LFD's needs?
 - We are well known for simple country architecture on Summer St.

- Liked idea of courtyard formation
- How much space are you taking on Reedy Meadow?
- Mom's Group- Can they incorporate any buildings there?
- Moved to LFD 1 yr ago
 - Would like to see a bigger space for young kids and older children
 - Everyone agrees parking almost non-existent
 - Takes twin boys to all other libraries around because they have so much more space and things to offer
 - People want to meet at Library with kids, but can't due to parking or other difficulties
 - Excited about possibilities but concerned for costs.
- When we have a new building what will take over the Library?
- Concerned about Town supporting an empty building
- Feel there will be efforts to stop this in its track.
- Has 2 small kids
 - Realizes what is missing at Library
 - Been here 7 years but our library is crowded, dark, fluorescent and outdated
 - It could be so much more.
 - Need a public – Non Retail space for children to go
 - Make it lively so it's a great space to go even when you don't want to get a book
 - Ease of access for all (Grew up in Wakefield)
- Community Room where author talks and other presentations take place – should be a community showpiece that looks like LFD
- Brave up for a long battle – Yellow House (Centre Farm) a concern financially – not touching golf course
- Triangle of Meeting House not safe enough to let kids run on
- Intergenerational spaces
- Library one of the most important buildings in the Town Public
- Show be crown jewel in community
- Present as something for everybody
- Consideration given to purchasing lot behind
- How far along are we in this plan?
- Get info out to public about library planning
 - Keep up advertising – be specific – try for front page
- Doesn't think people understand what is being offered
- Put into on Patch – newsletter flier at Elementary School
- Ideas on Open Space
 - Just library & gazebo
 - Don't let it get crowded
 - Open park type of thing
 - Could kids be hit by golf balls?
- Can envision a path to walk on – a contemplative place – people value this
- Jazz concerts on front steps (Wakefield)
- Leave flexible for future
- George Peabody Library

- Looks like White House
- Pond/green area little garden with path – laminated squares telling stories
- Inside train tables
- Sound proof story/craft area
- Frees kids at train table to just play and be themselves
- What will the Town’s priority be? – Big showing at Town Meeting & need talking points
- Do we want to scale back to be fair to other groups?
- Modular to add on to later?
- Why wasn’t there more info given out on Sat. night
- Mom’s group posted flyer
- Food friendly – café type of thing

Group 4

- What space should we have- current space?
 - 28,000 sq. ft.?
 - Desired by the populace?
 - Not a definite answer – certain standards w/ correlation to our population tbd. by Rawn
- What uses the library most? Who would use it most?
 - Community space
 - Safe space for middle school kids
 - Space for programs
 - Space for books to be part of Noble
- What do we need to expand collections with physical books?
 - Children’s books
- Where does grant \$ come from – MBLC list of requirements
 - Parking
 - Handicap accessible (totally)
- Would like covered drop off space for kids or elderly
- Should pay attention to acoustics
- Current Situation
 - What do we want to get the most?
 - Media space for parents to attend with their kids?
 - Georgetown library may be comparable- Middleton
- Space for popular books on site – Room for Collections
- Community Rooms
 - Speakers – programming open to public
 - Meetings
 - Accessible meeting space
- Q- How long would a new building be projected to last?
- Genealogy space
- Space to digitize public records
- IT – more secure space – electronic infrastructure
- Bike storage
- Exhibit space/gallery

- For teens – meeting space – project space – group study
- Maker space
- Program space for Adults – group study
- Parking issue
- Stroller space
- Space with nice outdoor visuals
- Outside open space for concerts, etc.
- Space for more children at story time
- Flexible space
- Book drop – easy access
- Café space – perhaps with a vendor – or bring in your own/Keurig
- Indoor courtyard or enclosed courtyard/ garden space
- Semi-protected outdoor space
- Warming kitchen with sink and fridge
- Function room on site?
 - Barn?
 - Wide pine boards from Danforth House
- Possible user of barn for gallery space/café/golf course combined user
- Colors/spaces with visual interest
- Comfortable sitting space for all sizes
- Soft seating and study type furniture with tables
- Accessible and comfortable seating for older population
- Small study spaces – visually open but soundproofed
- Small meeting rooms that can be opened up
- Potential for future expansion

Group 5

- Long discussion on: **What is our situation?**
 - Opinion was bifurcated between agreement and disagreement with the characterization of the present situation. Objectively as possible explained each point. After clarifications, pushbacks remained and they are noted. No comments under a bullet would indicate general agreement after debate of the circumstance.
 - It was indicated that future sessions would be where we would discuss alternative solutions – do nothings, renovate or a new building. There was a sentiment that some wanted to decide that first. Going through current situation was only way to segue into a different discussion that why are we here to begin with.
 - Collections cannot expand unless reductions are made in selected areas;
 - No program room that will seat 100 comfortably for the library’s use or that of the community;
 - Why not use school space when school not in session?
 - Inappropriate sight lines into restrooms and lack of family or children’s bathrooms
 - Reverse the hinges on the doors. This should have been done a long time ago and then we have no problem
 - Parking is insufficient with unsafe and poor access;

- Drive around until you find the space that meets your needs if you feel it is unsafe or you don't want to cross two streets. Safety? What do you expect on a busy street like Summer or South Common
 - Lack of suitable space for children and teen's interests and programs;
 - Why does this have to be in the library? Why can't it be done in the schools, after school?
 - Lack of sufficient space for tutors and students, patrons on laptops, collaborative group projects and small meetings;
 - Use the schools, already available. If it's that big of a problem vote at Town Meeting
 - Poor lighting and acoustics;
 - The building is too crowded;
- **Going Forward**
 - **Eliminate books and go digital at 100% level** – not require more space for shelves to maintain books added to the collection
 - Discussion on this in group was mixed, some supportive of requiring more space for more books but the loudest voice made the bulleted point
 - Use and take advantage of technology more, providing the infrastructure to do so for the future
 - Definitive ideas about to approach: talk to Apple/Google/Amazon (leading technology innovators of today) on the one hand to ensuring that there is flexibility available in a renovated building or a new building to accommodate as best as we can what may happen over the next 20 years.
 - **Building project space requirements and technology are not simple and we need the help of experts to make sure we get it correct**
 - What are the future needs: Books, digital, whatever?
 - Provide what shelf space required the use of books will be
 - **Articulate better and differently what we have in mind for a 21st century “library”.** Use of the term library for some of use leads to focus on a place with users and activities quite different than what we discussed about the future. It is hard to understand and using “library” is confusing.
 - **Use better branding terminology for what we have in mind.** *This dichotomy was important and a pivot point for some who embraced some of the ideas expressed about future uses of space but not in the context or association with “library”; a distinction that is important to pay attention to in communications with the community.*
 - Vibrant, positive and highly participatory discussion of “3rd space” (not school and not home) that was configurable for quite varied purposes – art, music, meeting, multigenerational, private, open **BUT** also with some areas dedicated for groups – kids, teens, high school and multigenerational – **DO IT RIGHT**
 - On this concept, there is group consensus in opinion
 - Do not impact the golf course income; maintain picnic tables; keep the green used for lessons in tact on Summer St.
 - Technology to print digital materials easily

- Mixed opinions on incorporating café space into building; but having it near is not a bad idea. Did not have a consensus on the need to be able to have area where drinks could be brought in or available.
- When focus groups are held with elementary and teen groups make sure we are able to elicit from them what they want to be able to do. While parents' input is important, it is more important to hear directly from kids.
 - What do the kids want/ Maker space? Access? Physical books? Digital? Devices?
- Nancy Ryan did clarify some of the space issues and the need for additional collection space in the building, but it was a difficult concept for a few who felt strongly and differently to accept this.