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## Plans for new Lynnfield Library coming together

By Bill Laforme

Designs have been coming together for what could become a new Lynnfield Library next to the Reedy Meadow Golf Course around the end of the decade. On Tuesday evening, representatives from William Rawn Associates were in town to meet with members of the Library Building Committee, which has been working to develop proposals for either a completely new library or extensive renovation of the existing facility.

The expected cost of renovation has turned out to exceed the expected cost of a new facility, in part because of state requirements for a certain number of parking spaces, among other things. Depending on approval from Town Meeting voters and also on the town's success in securing grant funds, a new library could be built around the space currently occupied by the historic but dilapidated Danforth House and a storage barn that would

apparently be moved to a nearby site.

The team from William Rawn presented a comprehensive plan for a new library, based on previous public forums in town where adults as well as children had had the opportunity to discuss what they would like in a new library. The 21,509 net square foot facility would include separate areas for adults, children, teens and staff, with a 3,624 square foot community meeting space that would be available after hours, separate from the rest of the library. The separation would be acoustic in nature as well, allowing young people more ability to talk and gather in their own space while also letting teens and adults work in a quieter setting. The magazine/newspaper area would be named for the Danforth House – which was home to some of the town's most prominent early citizens and which has been written

**LIBRARY** | SEE PAGE 2

## Huckleberry Hill Honors Lynnfield's Everyday Heroes



Principal Brian Bemiss and Lynnfield School Resource Officer Patrick Curran with a group of Huckleberry Hill fourth graders. (Advocate photo by Bill Laforme)

By Bill Laforme

Last Thursday, Huckleberry Hill Elementary School

students paid tribute to the many people in town who help contribute to the school district on any given day, from

teachers and administrators

**HEROES** | SEE PAGE 2



## LIBRARY PLAN COMING TOGETHER | FROM PAGE ONE



**Members of the Library Building Committee examine a model of the proposed new Lynnfield Library building, which was provided by representatives of William Rawn Associates.**

about in several articles that can be found online – and might have some rotating display cases for local history and other purposes.

The design plan would have passers-by on Summer Street able to see through the library's large windows to get a glimpse of Reedy Meadow behind it. An adult reading terrace in the back

of the library overlooking Reedy Meadow Golf Course, complete with Adirondack chairs, would be among the new library's amenities. A separate secure outdoor area for children and young people would be a short distance away. Inside, children and adults would enjoy the added benefit of a makerspace, an area that already exists at

Lynnfield High School and Summer Street School and which was written about in last week's issue of the Advocate.

becoming superintendent, and Cleary credits her with first mentioning to her that a School Committee seat was open and perhaps she

In front of the library, the planners envision a village green type of setting, not unlike the present Lynnfield Common, which is a short distance down Summer Street. The library would share an expanded parking area with the golf course, with a total of 120 spaces in the total area. One issue is how to get the parking lot finished without disrupting golf course operations. Another issue under discussion involves the fairly uneven topography of the selected site.

Coming up on Thursday, March 10, residents will be able to attend another public forum to discuss plans for the library. The forum will be held at the Huckleberry Hill Elementary School, which is where the previous one was held.

From there, the April 25 Town Meeting is expected to see three specific warrants come up for voters regarding the future of the library. The first one would request permission for the library trustees to submit a construction grant application to the Mass. Library Building Commission. This would cover

as much as 50% of the total cost of the building project, which is still in the process of being estimated but which at Thursday's meeting was loosely suggested as running between \$13.8 to \$15.4 million in 2019 dollars, offset by the previously mentioned grant, assuming approval of it. The second expected Town Meeting warrant article would ask voters to approve the recommended schematic design for the new library, while the third warrant article would request approval to build the library at the site next to Reedy Meadow Golf Course, provided voters do indeed sign off on a new library. One thing that none of these upcoming warrants will do is ask voters to approve actual funding for the project, which would still be several years away, and as noted before, dependent on state grant approval. If and when a new library is constructed, the existing library would then be repurposed by the town for some other use.

For more information about the library's building project, visit their website at [LynnfieldLibrary.org](http://LynnfieldLibrary.org).

## CLEARY WILL NOT SEEK | FROM PAGE ONE

she cited was her role on the initial committee that helped make the school district's 1-to-1 technology initiative a reality. "The technology

she often found herself noting the high quality of the district's teachers, administrators, students and others.