

# Schematic design plan ready for new library at Reedy Meadow

By MAUREEN DOHERTY  
LYNNFIELD — The preliminary schematic design for the proposed new library building at Reedy Meadow will be filed with the Town Clerk on Friday.

Filing the schematic design is a crucial step in enabling the town to move forward in its grant application process with the state, according to Library Building Committee (LBC) Chairman Russ

Boekenkroeger. The town will seek 40 to 60 percent reimbursement of the allowable costs through this state grant program for the 28,000 square foot building.

No town funds have been expended to date to create the schematic design because the LBC is currently operating under the planning and design grant previously awarded to the town by the state. With those funds, the Li-



ARCHITECT Kevin Bergeron (at right) points out the changes made to the proposed library building at Reedy Meadow on the scale model of the town center to those gathered at the third community forum hosted by the Library Building Committee. (Maureen Doherty Photo)

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Although the new building is proposed to be double in size of the current building, Bergeron said an important feature of the design facilitates "that sense of welcome" the community has come to expect when they enter the present library.

"One of the things we've heard from you is that the existing library has a nice sense of welcome," Bergeron said, explaining that when they spoke with retiring Library Director Nancy Ryan and her staff "we learned that a lot of that sense of welcome is the fact that the (circulation) desk is right there when you first walk in the door and the staff are looking you in the eye and saying hello. And it is as simple as that — facilitating that sense of welcome.

Architect Cliff Gayley added, "You've got an incredible site and an opportunity to create a real civic place for everybody in town. The Reedy Meadow site is in the middle of a lot of other things so it is perfectly positioned to connect with other assets in your community.

"There are a number of elements that constitute a civic hall," Gayley explained. "You want a town building that fronts onto the landscape and obviously to the street."

Another important element of a civic building is "the nature and scale of the interior space. When you arrive, you feel like you've come to a special place, something that is not a Starbucks and not a Town Hall," Gayley said.

"We also want to position the building in a way that it works with

scale of your town, so it doesn't want to be a big box. It wants to be broken into wings or sections that feel more in tune with the landscape," he said.

Various wings are designed at different heights to break the footprint into elements that are "more analogous to the residential scale of the neighborhood," Gayley said.

During the public comment period, one man suggested that adding pitched roofs to the building's various wings would help the large building to blend better into the surrounding neighborhood.

The building requires 70 parking spaces while the golf course will need 50. Two parking areas are planned. A small lot dedicated to the library is located on one side of a village green. The larger lot is set off to the opposite side of the library closer to the golf clubhouse. This lot consists of shared spaces, with 50 dedicated to the golf course broken up into an L shape within the rectangular lot. This lot is divided in half with a row of trees between two parking aisles.

The building itself fronts on a large green space which Gayley said is an effort to preserve the look of the building both from Summer Street and from the library itself so that it does not have the appearance of a shopping mall parking lot. The trees along the Summer Street will also be maintained.

Access to the library is proposed to be one way in, with a drop off area, with cars proceeding to the shared lot. Two-way in and out traf-

fic is maintained to the golf course lot as well. Gary Green, 184 Summer St., requested an adjustment to this traffic circulation because his driveway is situated directly opposite the exit with the shared golf course and library lot. Under present conditions, it is difficult for him to get out of his driveway, he said.

Bergeron said they would look into possibly moving the egress farther down Summer Street to offset it from his property or potentially reversing the in and out driveways.

### New director introduced

The town's new Library Director, Holly Mercer, who began her post earlier this month, attended the forum and said she was very excited to be involved in this building project. Boekenkroeger said Mercer has successfully managed libraries and programs in Arkansas, Oregon and West Virginia, is highly credentialed and "exceptionally proficient in budgeting, funding and management of finances for libraries."

"Public libraries are at the center and the heart of the community and I think this project displays that. The input that you have given and the support that you continue to give to this project is really a testament to how much you believe in Lynnfield," Mercer said.

She added, "I think this new library will feature the values that the town has and what you value for your family, what you value for each other and will just really be an expression of your community."

brary Trustees and LBC hired the architectural firm of William Rawn Associates which has held multiple community forums with all ages groups over the past several months to develop this plan with the LBC.

A draft of the schematic plan was first revealed at the third public forum with the LBC and Rawn architects Kevin Bergeron and Cliff Gayley on March 10. Residents will have opportunity to weigh in on the proposal at Town Meeting on Monday, April 25 when the LBC seeks approval of the voters to allow the trustees to apply for the building and construction grant from the state and to vote to approve the schematic design as presented.

"There is no cost to the town to apply for that grant but the town does need to approve that we can apply for the grant," Boekenkroeger explained. He added this schematic plan "will form the basis of the application to the state." The plan to be filed will go into greater detail about what the building is proposed to look like, its size and its potential cost.

At a later date, most likely at the October 2016 Town Meeting, voters will be asked to approve the