

Listening Sessions Feb. 2023

VALUE of Library

- Lifelong learning, Literacy, Informed & educated citizens
- Welcoming, Free work/study space, Intergenerational
- Free respite, Education support, free programs, free books & movies, newspapers & magazine
- Community connections, Learning & growth, Recreation, Creativity,
- Nature appreciation
- Computers, wifi, tech support, Environmental stewardship (shared resources)
- Historic Preservation/charm
- Library resources such as
 - **Sharing materials:** New books, Newspapers, Audiobooks, eBooks
 - **Space** that is welcoming, free, secular, safe, non-political, intergenerational, facilitating remote work
 - **Skilled Services:** Tech support, employment search and resume help, education support, notary services, friendly helpful staff
 - **Experiences and activities:** classes and workshops
 - **Equipment :** hot spots, Chromebooks, computers, copy/FAX/scanning/printing

CHALLENGES

- One room can't serve all the needs- community room, children's room, more books
- Parking
- Dangerous exit- Central Ave. onto Main St.
- Historic Preservation
- Nostalgia
- Complacency

ENVISION

- Children's room
- More programs
- More publicity about library events and services
- Small meeting room
- Big meeting room

QUESTIONS

- **Can the basement be used for expansion?** No. Notwithstanding a very substantial investment in making the basement dry, during storms the basement gets wet.
- **Can the library have programs off-site?** We have programs off-site for large crowds or nature education. The library's regular weekly programs require the library staff to be present in the library building. Without hiring additional staff, we cannot send the library to other locations for programs. In addition, most of the library's programs integrate with the library collections which are located in the

library. A big part of children's library programs involves parents and children borrowing stacks of books.

- **What are the limitations placed on this building by the historic landmark status? Can the building be changed or sold?** The building is on the state and national register of historic landmarks. The appearance of main part of the building cannot be altered. The rest of the building was constructed in the 1970s and can be altered. The building can be sold.
- **What is the cost of renovating the Belltower vs. the cost of expanding the current library building?** We obtained preliminary estimates for the renovating the Belltower building and will eventually have plans and obtain estimates for renovating and expanding the current building.
- **What are some possible grants for library construction?** There are some state grants that could possibly cover part of the cost of a new facility. The State Library Construction Grant funds were severely cut in this year's governor's budget. There are some other state economic development grants, which the library may or may not qualify for, depending on the scope of the project and the location. The library will aggressively pursue any and all grant opportunities.
- **How have other libraries addressed these needs?** Other libraries have expanded, renovated, or moved to a new building. Examples of local libraries that have undergone major construction projects in the recent past are: Esopus, Highland, New Paltz, Hurley, West Hurley, Stone Ridge, Saugerties, and Phoenicia. Local libraries currently in the process of renovation/expansion/move are Kingston, Woodstock, and Plattekill.
- **Is there a possibility of creating more parking on a neighbor's property or in the catchment basin or side of the road?** The library already approached a neighbor who said no to parking on their property. The catchment basin is not under the library's jurisdiction.
- **What are the environmental concerns, pros and cons, of expanding the current building vs. moving to a larger building?** Expanding this building will require new construction which will have more negative environmental impacts than moving to an existing larger building.
- **What would happen to this building if the library moves?** If the library were to move and this building were sold, the library board has no way of knowing what the use of the current building would have in the future.
- **What about Peter Buffet?** Rosendale falls outside of the NoVo Foundation's focus area of Kingston, and the NoVo Foundation does not accept unsolicited applications.