

The Need

Current space and resources of the library are inadequate to serve the needs of our Town.

The State recognized the extent of our need by putting us high on the list to receive funding.

The library has:

- 4,100 square feet to support a population of almost 10,000.
- Limited handicapped access. The children's collection, meeting space and most of the non-fiction area do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Eight parking spaces, one public Internet computer, one meeting room that also holds the teen collection and no quiet study or reading areas.
- Many Massachusetts Building Code violations and safety hazards, including poor lighting, lack of storage space, inadequate wiring and a fire exit past the boiler room in the children's library.

Today's Opportunity

We have a very narrow window of opportunity. A \$1,782,563 State Grant (based on a \$3,993,148 building) is available to us *only if* we can secure the remaining funds before November 2003. The new library will offer many benefits, including:

- 15,000 square foot facility (this is the minimum size required for our Grant).
- Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and improved accessibility for all.
- Forty-seven parking spaces, multiple public Internet computers, a community meeting room, a conference room, ample quiet reading space and study areas.
- Efficient single floor design with reliable mechanical, electrical and safety systems, all built to current codes and standards for ongoing economical operation.

You Might Ask

In light of current fiscal challenges and ongoing Town projects, you might ask:

Why do it now?

This is a one-time opportunity. The Grant is available only until November 2003.

The cost to borrow money is at an all-time low. It will never be less expensive to build than it is today.

Why not add on?

Consulting architect Ken Best (of Best & Joslin) estimated that a 6,800 square foot renovation/addition would cost \$3,058,269.

This alternative would not be eligible for State reimbursement. It would result in a building that is one-third smaller in size and more expensive to operate than the new building. In short, we would pay significantly more for much less of a building.

History

- 1850 Library incorporated, making it the third oldest library in Massachusetts.
- 1910 Current library built.
- 1963 Ritter Memorial Library expanded.
- 1988 Plans to renovate and expand the building withdrawn given other needs.

- 1999 Lunenburg awarded Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) Planning and Design Grant of \$20,000. Town Meeting approval of matching funds reflects town support.

- 2000 For two years, many options are explored, culminating in the decision to build a library next to the school campus and the Senior Center.
- 2002 In November, Lunenburg awarded MBLC Library Construction Grant of \$1,782,563.

Library Building Project

Lunenburg has been presented with a valuable opportunity. The Town has been awarded a limited time offer of a guaranteed \$1,782,563 State Grant to build a 15,000 square foot library (the minimum size required to be eligible for our Grant). The plan is to build a modest, yet vastly improved facility that will provide many benefits to the Town and support the community for years to come.

The Library Trustees and Friends of Ritter Memorial Library are pursuing many fund raising activities. We have partnered with the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts to manage funds. We need your support to make this project a reality now, while this grant is available.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail, please contact Debra Chapdelaine, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, at 978.582.4260.

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Ritter Memorial Library Building Project