Library Expansion Open House
Thursday, January 23rd
Southington Public Library

Post–It Note Comments 1/23/2020 11AM Session

Expansion/Renovation Design

- Parking Needs to be Larger
- Have you asked the Maintenance Guy for Info!
- New
- Go New!!

New Construction Design

- The “Open to Below” lets in light but reduces too much potential usable space. Too wasteful.
- Solar Panels? Should be included to save $$$
- If new, no or few trees on corner so parking access is more and easier.
- 8 tutoring spaces in insufficient—often more than 8 tutors working at the same time.
- Make local history area small—we already have the Barnes Museum & the Historical Society buildings
- Why hasn’t someone tried to close it down?
- Like new design on current site
- Combine bookstore & café
- Does bookstore size change?
- Larger conference room (18-20)
- Public Kitchen – clubs, community groups, people who are presenting programs
- Individual comfortable seating (armchair type) for solo readers or device users – dotted throughout
- I like the park!
- Ask delivery people’s feedback
- New plan is far better on so many levels!!! Yes!
- Pre-function space needs to be available for big room
- Apple Technology Only
- Facilities that are thinking tech advancements 35+ yrs
- I vote for new one
- Is it possible the large meeting room can be divided when needed?
- I vote for new!
- New building more efficient than makeover and less disruptive
- I vote for new
• Business resources & meeting areas a must
• The large rooms for meeting—can it be divided into smaller spaces
• Lots of meeting/conference rooms
• New design better / allows library to remain open during construction / will cause some parking problems but workable
• Need more parking
• Love lots of windows
• Handicap parking needs to be a focus
• I vote new!
• Device charging ability near all seating
• We have a whole bldg. for “history” y do we need so much extra room for this

Post –It Note Comments 1/23/2020 6:30PM Session

Expansion/Renovation Design

• Can we put solar on it from the start
• Children’s area just right size as designed
• Balcony area in open rooms?
• Can bldg. have a pitched room instead of flat. (less contemporary looking also less leaks.)
• Outside of bldg. To blend w/ historical older downtown area bldgs.
• Put a wood covered guardrail at corner of Meriden Ave.
• In the condition of the building that only has stories utilize basement space is important. – please do not get rid of the idea of activating the basement space.
• LEED certification
• Solar panels – net zero construction – video game room – maker lab like Wallingford library – comfortable plush seats and couches
• Local Southington history area/display/wall of fame – factor in environmental cost of taking down existing construction – LEED certification in building construction
• Is the adult collection space enough?
• Neither plan seems to be big enough. We will outgrow it before it’s complete
• Designated maker space with kitchen facilities
• More space for books in adult section
• Children’s space need to ensure easy way to access with strollers, baby seats, etc
• Safety of children crossing v busy street never mentioned. Need crowsswalks & Maybe blinker lite.
• Performance area?
• Would prefer to see children’s room on main level to make it easier for parents with strollers
• Increase space for collections is essential for my family. My 2 middle school kids can never find books that they like. Small selection needs to be expanded.
New Construction Design

- Have small conference rooms with dividers
- Where are the small study spaces? Cubbies? Adults? Quiet?
- Not fond of chunky block style
- As much parking as possible—no need for the park
- Parking – need as much as possible – no space for “park-like” – Concern re 1 way in and out
- To me it seems this park is not necessary
- Don’t believe park is necessary. Landscape-but park may invite loitering
- 😊 love keeping some open ceilings – like now
- LEED building cost vs. reward don’t stop at solar!
- Dividable program room
- Will stairs have backs on them? Unlike current open stairs? Hope so.
- Kitchen facility in program room
- Anticipate large bldg. in south blocking all light & views
- Glass walls on 2nd floor overlooking main floor—for perching? Would make for more inclusion & cohesiveness
- 😊 I like the idea of more meeting space…but I would like the collections to grow more
- Outside book drop access
- Entrance to parking lot
- Children’s room bathroom
- Prefer new construction but could the new bldg. be oriented to the center of property for a better visual impact & presence? Might allow for later expansion. I assume parking spaces would then be on both sides. Want a bldg. that draws attention & people.

Online Form Comments as of 1/30/2020 12:00pm

Expansion/Renovation Design

- Not interested in it. Too much old material there.
- Not bad, parking still an issue, and the side driveway looks tight. We could just keep it the way it is and save the town people money.
- Looks like it’s overpowering the space it’s in.
- Nice. Will it take a really long time.
- I like it in placement and look
- I like that it’s in the same location as the current building. I think it’ll look better and be more prominent on the corner. It would be nice to have the children’s section on the first floor. If not, possibly a second entrance from the children’s area. Sometimes toddlers don’t like to leave, and I would hate to have to carry a screaming toddler through a quiet library. Even the main entrance being a bit closer to the stairs and elevator. Possibly from the lobby.
• Which of the two designs have more square footage? What would happen to the basement because it was left out of the plans? It is hard to read the images because I cannot expand them on my phone.
• Good, need to provide more activity for all ages
• Like. would like price comparison and usable square footage comparison
• Looks nice. I like the way it is set up and designed.
• Far better - keep current building in hub w/ historical society and remainder of educational area rather than being thrown off into a corner. Include $ for a covered bridge walkway to/fro the school to maximize community campus tie-in w/ school auditorium!
• Best of the 2
• I can't tell from these plans if the children and teen's rooms will still be open to the rest of the building. If so, then there is no point. You must have the children's room on a separate floor, closed off with walls and doors. Every other library I've been to in the state has it that way. If it is not closed off by walls doors, you are accomplishing nothing. That is the worst part of the current library. It is way too loud in the rest of it because of the children's room.

New Construction Design

• Definitely! It's way overdue!
• Plainville has a beautiful library! Also Bristol. We are sorely missing out.
• no, we don't need a new building and the parking space is still an issue.
• I like the building placement better away from the intersection. Hopefully there will be many windows all around the building. One exception.....Only one entrance/exit into and away from a super busy street. On second look, (unable to enlarge picture) there may be an entrance from Rte. 10
• I really liked the look of the new building. It looks as if it would serve Southington for a longer time. Is it possible to obtain the adjacent buildings for additional expansion?
• I like the layout
• Really like how the lobby can be secluded for post hour functions. I like the location of the bookstore better in this option. Not crazy about the location set back away from the street.
• Does this have a basement too? Does this have more or less square footage than the remodel? My only complaint is parents and kids who park there to get to school events may not use the crosswalk to cross the road, but they do that now too.
• Good
• I like the fact that the library is set back here.
• Like. Would like price and usable square footage comparisons
• Awkward, don't like the design. Work take more energy to create and it's not even better than the original option. No.
• Looks like an afterthought to parking lot at the bottom of a precip runoff area - not saved by quad space at corner of Main St/Meriden Ave.
I like the layout of the new construction. All adult books in one area and the reading sections near the windows.

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Questions at 11:00am Meeting

- Difference in costs between the two proposed plans
- Will there be geothermal and solar?
- Where is the handicapped parking going to be?
- Will there be enough parking?
- What are the environmental issues if building on the current site?
- Will the electric car charging station still be there?
- Will there be more bathrooms and elevators?
- Will impervious area be increased or stay the same?
- Which building would be better for future expansion?
- Does the staff have a preference?

Questions at 6:30pm Meeting

Comment: Resident would like wide staircase leading to Children’s section upstairs. This will accommodate a mother carrying a baby in a carrier. Recommended a handrail at the level for a small child to use.

Comment: Resident believes there is wasted space in the opening above the lobby. If we enclose (put more floor space) it would allow more room for children’s craft room which could then accommodate 50+ kids.

Response: Kristi explained the programming and that the addition would accommodate more time slots and therefore more children. Additional floor space would not be needed.

Comment: Resident doesn’t think a park is needed on the corner.

Question: Will there be kitchen facilities?
Answer: Yes, in either plan the facilities would be located adjacent to the 150-person conference/meeting space.

Question: Will there be more collection space?
Answer: Some increases but focus is on people.

Question: What is the SF comparison between the renovation plan and the new build?
Answer: Approximately 1200 SF more in the renovation plan.

Question: Will there be a separate quiet space?
Answer: Yes,

Comment: Resident is concerned will cars turning at the corner of Route 10 and Meriden Avenue, travelling too fast and striking the library corner. Therefore preferred the new build plan with setback.

Question: Explain the choice in locating the children’s area.
Answer: Upstairs and separate. Location is beneficial to contain the children to their area. Felt it is safer.

Question: Will the development of the property on Route 10 to the south of the library, block the natural lighting to the library?
Answer: We believe it will not. Likely the business will be developed with adequate setbacks.

Question: Please explain the construction phasing.
Answer: Jeff from Tappe Architects explained the phase construction needed for the renovation option.

Question: What are the effects on the cost?
Answer: Unknown at this time. We are still investigating.

Question: Has the cost of abatement been considered? Opening a can of worms with asbestos, etc.
Answer: Recognize there will be asbestos that will be handled correctly.

Question: Can you tell more about the light penetration?
Answer: Explained the orientation of the building, southern exposure and sunlight access.
**Question:** Was the budget the only constraint on why a basement was not incorporated into the new build?

**Answer:** We can build a mechanical/electrical room in the basement but wouldn’t utilize a basement room for programming.

**Question:** What is the current SF of the library?

**Answer:** 21,000 SF; Renovation: 38,200 SF; New: 37,000 SF

**Question:** What is the area depicted in blue just off of Route 10?

**Answer:** That is an underground storage area for water infiltration. It can not be built on. There is one entrance/exit to the property along with a separate service entrance.

**Comment:** Discussion on the lack of a basement. Think about the need for storage space or for expansion of programming. Think about Town as a whole. Is storage space needed for other departments?

**Answer:** In new build, the basement would not be planned to be utilized by people/programming.

**Question:** Can the 150-person room be split in two and utilized as 2 – 75 person meeting areas?

**Answer:** Yes

**Comment:** Please provide an estimate for the added cost to put in a finished basement in the new build.

**Comment:** With the new library, please look into it being a show piece for the Town. As a taxpayer would like it to be energy efficient, net zero.

**Comment:** Resident in favor of re-use of buildings. Not to throw away. Would like to know about salvage potential.

**Comment:** Resident would like nice couches; area for teens to include video games; 3-D printer.

**Answer:** Kristi explained current benefits/services that include video games and 3-D printer.

**Question:** Will there be an area to showcase local history or town residents and their accomplishments?

**Answer:** Yes