

Building Program Hopkinton Public Library

Executive Summary

Hopkinton is located in Middlesex County, 26 miles west of Boston. Its area is hilly and includes more than 27 square miles. Main highways are State Routes 135, 85 and Interstates 90 and 495.

The population of Hopkinton in 2008 is 14,980. According to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) the population in 2030 will be 15,602. However, this projection does not take into account the development of “Legacy Farms”. The 940 units of mixed residential housing will generate a significant population increase. For this Study, the consensus of the members of the Building Committee and the Library Board of Trustees is that the population figure of 20,000 for the year 2030 should be used.

The current library was completed in 1895 and in 1967 the former St. Paul’s Episcopal Church next door was purchased. A gallery was built to connect the two buildings and the church was remodeled. The combined buildings have about 5,000 square feet. The primary problems are that there is no space left for the growing collection, no space for study, no work space, no space for public meetings. There are no meeting rooms for programs. There are seventeen steps to reach the Children’s Room on the second floor and is totally inaccessible to the handicapped. The building infrastructure needs renovation. The parking lot has six spaces for staff and handicapped only. Patrons must park on the street.

There are seventeen “Special Concerns”.

1. Renovation/Addition or a New Facility. The recommendation of this Study is to undertake the construction of a new building at another suitable site.
2. A Single Level Building is the most cost effective use of space.
3. Library as a Town Common, or, Community Place. The Hopkinton Public Library is the only place in Town for people of all ages to gather, either informally or in a public meeting. The Library can truly be a Community Place.
4. A “Green” Library cost less to operate and maintain than conventionally constructed buildings. They are more comfortable and are more attractive to its users. The Library can be a model for the Town, creating a sustainable building for the community.
5. Everything is movable, portable so that the Library can always be prepared for change.
6. The Multipurpose Meeting Room/Exhibit Space/Kitchen will seat 150 and be available for lectures, presentations, book discussion groups. Community groups could use this room as well.
7. The Conference Room seats 15 around a table with room for 25. This room has multi-uses as a group study room, conference room and is a space for the Board of Trustees.

8. The Historical Room is a repository for the local history and genealogy collection of the Library.
9. The Children's Room is light and airy with enough room for defined areas for different functions and ages, yet not fragmented.
10. The Children's Program Room, seating 25, is located next to the Children's Room and is primarily for children's programs, but could be used for other groups.
11. Quiet/Tutoring Rooms, 2, seating two each, are available for individuals seeking quiet space, or for tutors and their clients.
12. Young Adult Room for children in grades 7 – 12 is a welcoming environment for this age group. This is a collaborative area.
13. A Homework Area has dedicated computer work stations to serve the needs of students in grades 7 – 12.
14. There is Gallery/Exhibit space for fine art throughout the Library, as well as space in the meeting rooms.
15. A Social/Coffee Space, seating 6, is located near the Entrance and encourages socializing as part of the library as a "Community Place".
16. Efficient Use of Staff should be a prime focus of the design.
17. Efficient Use of Space includes adaptable spaces and should be a high priority in the design.

General Characteristics of the facility should include the following. The Hopkinton Public Library is an integral part of the life of the community. The new facility must reflect that importance and be a landmark to residents and visitors alike. The building should make a statement about the quality of life in this community. The existing library coordinates with other architecture of the Town. The new library must continue this visual tradition.

The Library should be easily supervisable and easily maintained. It should be environmentally safe and energy efficient. There should be plentiful storage areas and the building should be able to accommodate whatever the electronic needs of the future will be. The facility should be fully accessible to the disabled, meeting or exceeding ADA Standards. The acoustics, lighting, HVAC, fire protection and security should be highly effective systems.

The building includes four rooms available for meetings, programs or socializing. The Conference Room seats 15, the Meeting Room seats 150, the Children's Program Room seats 25 and the Social/Coffee Space seats 6. An Audiovisual Area is close to the Young Adult Room. There is a Photocopier near the Circulation Area and one near the Historical Room.

The Reading/Browsing Area, the Large Print/Paperbacks Area and the Information/Study Area will provide adequate seating for browsing and study. There is an Historical Room for the Library's collection of local history and genealogy.

Storage areas are located throughout the building: custodial area, circulation/technical services, offices, meeting room, children's program room, closed storage and in the kitchen and galley areas.

Office/work space includes the Director's Office, three desks and one work station in the Circulation/Technical Services Room, and the Children's Librarian's Office. Provisions have been made for 33 public machine seats. The collection capacities are as follows: Children's Room 30,625, Adult Bookstacks 44,295, Reference 800, Local History 2,000, Periodicals 250, Young Adult 6,020, and Adult Non-print 10,000 for a total of 98,000 items. Seating for the public totals 99, seats from the meeting rooms total 196. The building has 26,568 square feet.

The building must be highly efficient, utilizing flexible space, so that it will meet the informational, educational and cultural needs of the citizens of Hopkinton well into the twenty-first century.

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Marjorie L. Judd
Library Building Consultant