

Goodwin Memorial Library Planning and Design Committee and Trustees
Questions and Answers about May 2016 Town Meeting Library Articles

Town Meeting Warrant Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of the site of the current Hooker School located on the westerly half of the existing 2.763 acre lot owned by the Town of Hadley (Hampshire County Registry of Deeds Book 766 Page 411) for demolition of the existing structure and construction of a proposed new library building, contingent upon the receipt of a Library Construction Grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and appropriation of local funding of the balance of project costs, or take any action relative thereto.

What a YES vote means:

- The space currently occupied by the former Hooker School (now housing the Senior Center) would become the site of the new Hadley Public Library, pending the passing of Article 19 and successful receipt of a Library Construction Grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

What a NO vote means:

- Article 19 would be passed over
- The Library Planning and Design Committee would have to find an alternate site for a new library
- The architects would have to design a new building specifically for that site, requiring the use of more of the current Library Planning and Design grant money and possibly additional money
- The Library Planning and Design Committee and Library Trustees would present this new site and new design to Town Meeting in Fall 2016 for a vote

Town Meeting Warrant Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to accept the preliminary design for the Hadley Library as presented by architects, Johnson Roberts Associates and approved by the Goodwin Memorial Library Board of Trustees, and further vote to authorize the Trustees of the Hadley Library to apply for any state funds which might be available to defray all or part of the cost of the design, construction and equipping of the library project and to authorize the Library Building Committee and/or Select Board and/or Library Trustees to accept and expend any such funds when received without further appropriation, or take any action in relation thereto.

What a YES vote means:

- The Library Trustees would be free to apply for a Library Construction Grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for the site and the design

What a NO vote means:

- The architects would have to design a new building, requiring the use of more of the current Library Planning and Design grant money and possibly additional money
- The Library Planning and Design Committee and Library Trustees would present this new design to Town Meeting in Fall 2016 for a vote

Frequently Asked Questions:

How much are these two Articles going to cost me?

Nothing. There is no financial obligation to the town or to taxpayers. If the Town receives the Construction Grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), the total amount of the award will be known. Then the Library Trustees will then come back to Town Meeting to request any additional monies required to complete the project.

*But how much **will** the new library eventually cost me?*

The proposed funding model for the new library is currently 54% grant funding from the MBLC, 10% from the Capital Campaign Committee (private funding) and 36% from the Town.

Would this new library end up costing me more in the long run than the old building?

Not likely. The efficient one-floor design of the new library will minimize staffing costs while maintaining a secure, welcoming, full-service environment. In addition, the new building will be energy efficient and environmentally friendly, resulting in lower cost of operation. LEED certification could result in additional grant funding for construction.

When would this all happen?

If these two articles pass, the Library Trustees would apply for the MBLC Construction Grant. The application is due in January 2017. Grants are awarded by July 2017. The townspeople would then be able to vote to accept the grant (and fund the remaining portion of the costs) at Fall 2017 Town Meeting. If approved, construction would begin in Spring 2019 at the earliest.

Why do we even need a new library?

The current building—dating from 1902—is inadequate for the needs of a community our size in the 21st century. The new library design addresses space needs for collections and occupancy not met by our present facility. A new library will have the capacity for a collection of twice the current size and more space for increased programming. The new library will also have ample parking with 40 dedicated spaces. The current library has 9 parking spaces.

How many people even use the library?

Over the past year, the library saw 17,000 patron visits and 46,000 items were circulated. This is a large increase in just a few years; in 2011 there were just under 27,000 items circulated. In March 2016, total circulation was up 16% over the same month last year.

Would this new library have a separate children's room?

Yes, the children's room will have sections for younger and older readers as well as its own bank of computer stations. In addition, the new library will also have a separate teen room adjacent to the children's room.

What would happen to the Senior Center?

The townspeople will ultimately decide what happens to the Senior Center. The Municipal Building Committee has recommended the hiring of an Owner's Project Manager (Article 11), and one of the projects slated for action is the consideration of and planning for a new Senior Center.

What would happen to the other offices currently located in the former Hooker School?

The Select Board and Town Administrator would decide on the best new locations for these offices, in consultation with the offices themselves and with the Municipal Building Committee.

What will happen to the old Goodwin Memorial Library building?

The townspeople will ultimately decide what happens to the building, in consultation with the plans for all buildings being discussed by the Municipal Building Committee. There are currently a number of different options under discussion, including the conversion of the building into a regional center for agricultural information.

We really need a community meeting space. How would this project help that?

The design for the new library includes a community room which will be big enough for 75 people and will be available to the public even when the library is closed. This includes a flexible layout which can accommodate rows of chairs and/or tables and chairs, a small kitchen, adjacent bathrooms, and a lobby which can also be used for overflow.

Would this community space be accessible?

Yes. The entire building, including the meeting space and the bathrooms, would be accessible.

Where can I find out more?

Attend one of our Public Information Sessions:

- Thursday April 21st, 7:00-8:30PM, Town Hall second floor
- Wednesday April 27th, 7-8:30PM, Goodwin Memorial Library

Check out the Planning and Design blog at: <https://goodwinmemoriallibrary.wordpress.com/>