

Frequently Asked Questions about the New Proposed Sutton Library Project

Project Facts at a Glance:

Size: The New Sutton Public Library design is 17,140 square feet

Location: 2.5 acres of Shaw Farm, at the end of the lane, away from any other proposed use.

Q: When and where is the town meeting?

A: The Town meeting will be held on October 16, 2017 at 7pm at the High School auditorium. Doors open and registration begins at 6pm. Babysitting is available free of charge with the Girl Scouts at the Sutton Public Library from 6-9pm.

Q: What will voters decide on?

A: The Board of Trustees have put forward an article asking the town to raise and appropriate \$11,190,985 for a new library building. If the article is passed then there will be a special election within 90 days where voters will be asked to approve a debt exclusion.

Q: How much will a new library building cost?

A: The total cost estimated for the new library project is \$11,190,985. This includes construction, site work, professional services, furniture, fittings, and equipment as well as cost escalation and contingencies.

Q: How much will a State grant be?

A: The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) has granted the Sutton Library a provisional construction grant award of \$4,979,584. We will receive an additional \$174,285 Green Library Incentive upon receiving LEED certification.

Q: What will be the remaining cost to the Town?

A: The remaining cost to the town is \$6,037,116. A Capital Campaign Committee has been formed with the initial goal of raising \$500,000 to offset the town's portion. As of October 2017 they have raised \$53,000. Fundraising will continue throughout the construction phase.

Q: Why does the town need a new library?

A: According to the Town of Sutton Master Plan (finalized in 2012), a new library facility is a priority for the town, along with the Police Station and DPW facility. In fact, the need for improved library facilities was identified as a Key Issue in Section 1.3, and as a Priority Action in Section 1.4. In addition, the recommendation was made that all three facilities pursue grants to offset the cost. The Library is the only facility to accomplish this task.

Per the Master Plan:

“The Library needs additional space as it is so small that there are issues meeting State standards for purchase of new materials because there is limited space to store new materials. Additionally, space at the Town Hall must be utilized for many programs and the programs are limited as a result of scheduling within this building.”

In addition, The Master Plan highlighted the need for additional community meeting space and recreational programs. The Library is the main source for non-sports recreation for all ages in the town, providing educational lectures, concerts, music and movement programs, STEAM learning opportunities, early literacy programs and fun programs for tweens and teens. The New Library has been designed to allow multiple programs at once, and offer a meeting space that can be opened to the community without the need for opening and staffing the library. When the community meets at the School, the janitorial staff must stay, at a cost to the town. This large community room can also serve as a safe, accessible polling place, rather than disrupting the safety and educational activities at the Schools.

Regarding implementation, the Master Plan indicated that the Library Planning and Design process should begin with the planning and design grant application in 2013, as shown in the implementation Matrix in section 9.0. The Planning and Design Grant was awarded, with matching funds provided from Library retained state aid, and interest from a trust fund. The Construction Grant Application was submitted in January 2017. All planning, design and grant submission activities were completed with no costs incurred by the town.

Q: How will this impact the taxes in town?

A: The incremental cost to the average home in Sutton (a home with a value of \$345,542.45) will be an average of \$106 per year over the 20-year span of the debt exclusion. The cost per \$1,000 of a home valuation is an increase of \$.31. The first-year tax impact is 39cents/\$1000 and the last year is 23 cents/\$1000. The Library asks the town to look at this as an investment in our community with opportunities for everyone to benefit. If a household wishes to recoup their investment with an immediate return, they must simply utilize the Library. The Library already provides an incredible return on the town’s annual budget investment, in book lending alone. Add in the value of programming provided, and try not to recognize the value the Library provides. For example, Apple Tree Arts offers a music and movement program in Grafton, charging \$20 per class meeting. The Library offers four 5-week sessions per year, each with 10 participants for free. Each participant saves \$100, for a total savings to Sutton residents of \$4,000. The library funds these activities out of State Aid to libraries as well as grants that are sought from various charitable organizations. The library has several hours of special

programming each week, along with an incredible summer reading program with options for children to adults.

Q: Why put the Library on Shaw Farm?

A: The Town purchased Shaw Farm for \$4.5 Million in 2007. At the time of purchase, it was to be used for a variety of municipal needs, including a track and field, open space, and a potential location for the DPW facility. While not on the final Master Plan for Shaw Farm, the library was careful considerations when placing the library on the site so as to not impact any other planned uses for the Shaw Farm Property. The Library will use approximately 2.5 acres of the over 130 acres included in the property. The Library area will impact only a small center portion of the trail labelled "Access Trail" on the site, and will be mitigated by the Library so as to ensure access to the entire trail network as currently shown on the Shaw Farm Trail Map. It's important to note that neither end of the trail is impacted; the Library would just need to provide signage to "close the loop". The Library does not intend to close or hinder any access to Shaw Farm other than as required for safety during the proposed construction project.

Q: Why can't the Library use the police department space?

A: The new police station project was approved at May 2017 Town Meeting. The Library submitted their grant application to the MBLC in January 2017. The police station space was not available to be considered when the grant application was being prepared.

Other practical considerations: Town Hall seems to be quite full when looking at all the various municipal departments. There are departments located at Town Hall that would greatly benefit from the newly available space. One example is the Fire Department. For meetings and trainings, they pull the trucks out of the bays, and pull up a chair. This is not the most conducive environment for learning critical information, and a proper training room would be one of several options for the space. In addition, the Town Hall septic system is struggling to keep up with use. Moving the library to a new location should help to alleviate some of those issues. The State doesn't provide grants for town halls, but it does for Library construction projects, so why not use this opportunity to build a facility for approximately 50 cents on the dollar, and thereby extend the utility of an existing town building that would need to be paid for in full if it needed to be replaced or renovated extensively. Parking is also at a premium at the town hall, and in the Center in general, so bringing the Library out of Town Hall will improve the availability of parking.

Q: Why can't the Library be located in the Center/Beehive/Brick Block (Polly's Antiques)?

A: The Planning and Design Committee looked at all of these options, and there are two insurmountable obstacles. 1. Books are heavy and those buildings aren't designed for the weight. 2. People need to be able to use the bathroom. There is no sewer to those sites, and septic is a serious issue in the center of Town. The land available in the center failed to perc, and so was unsuitable for this project.

FY2016 Library Operating Budget (Town Budget, excludes gifts and grants)- \$190,905.00

Sutton Population (2012)- 9355

Per Capita Cost- \$20.41

Circulation value (if each patron purchased the item checked out)- \$1,040,368.00

Per Capita Value- \$111.21

Per Capita Savings- \$90.80

Library services that patrons could use that would equal the investment in the New Public Library:

Check out 4 hardcover books per year, instead of purchasing them at a book store or online.

Check out 8 paperback books per year, instead of purchasing at a book store or online.

Download two e-magazines per month for free through the library website and keep forever, instead of purchasing at the checkout stand. They won't clutter your coffee table, and you don't even need to leave the house.

Taking a summer/ winter break course at a College or University? Check out the text book, instead of buying or renting, and realize a savings of more than \$100-to \$300. Most books can be checked out for 9 weeks with renewals before any fines accrue. If it's not at the Sutton Library it can still be found via interlibrary loan. (No highlighters, please.)

Movies-not everything is on Netflix or Amazon, or Amazon and other on demand providers charge \$4.99 to rent it, and give you 24 hours to watch it from hitting play. Check it out for free at the library, and have it for 1 week. Place a hold from the Library's mobile app, pick it up anytime the Library is open (10 am till 8 pm on Tuesday and Thursday, 6 pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday and till 3 pm Saturday), and know that movie night is ready to go. If the Library doesn't have it, DVDs are also available through interlibrary loan, so the Library can get it for you.

Another way to look at the Budget Concerns: The Library is currently 0.89% of the town's overall budget. In FY17 the Library budget is \$208,109 of the Town's \$31,390,056 budget. The majority of the operational budget is wages and staffing, currently \$159,702. The library has been designed in such a way that the cost to operate will increase \$60,000 per year to cover utilities, custodian, and insurance.