

Goffstown Public Library

Building Addition FAQ

Why is the project so expensive?

The cost of the project is based on estimates from the construction manager and engineering partners using market rates for materials and labor. The Library Foundation is committed to offsetting project costs through gifts, donations, and grants. Many grants, some of which would award up to \$1 million, will not accept applications without a show of support from voters.

Aren't libraries obsolete? I can just buy books on Amazon.

Public libraries are constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community. Librarians have reinvented services, expanded resources, and implemented creative programming. Patrons consume resources in many different formats, and not all patrons can afford to purchase materials, including internet access.

How will the project affect staffing?

The renovation and addition are designed with sightlines specific to maintaining the current staff size.



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Why is this being considered now, when times are tough?

Waiting has already increased the project cost significantly. Current bond rates are favorable, and prices may continue to increase. The Library Board of Trustees and Library Foundation will raise funds to reduce the total project cost.

Why can't you just reorganize the existing library and make it ADA accessible?

The interior of the existing building was reorganized in 1997, when the elevator was added, and has continuously been reconfigured. There is no space in the current building to add a fully accessible restroom. Just addressing accessibility ignores the issues around parking and spaces to work and meet, as well as the limits the building places on our collection and programming.

Reorganizing and improving accessibility does not address the concerns from the fire inspector, including but not limited to the lack of a fire suppression system and doors and methods of egress that do not meet fire code. The inspector recommended that groups of people should not occupy the third floor, due to life safety concerns.

Can't you make the project smaller?

The proposed addition and renovation are what the library needs to effectively, efficiently, and safely meet the demands of the 18,000+ residents of Goffstown.

Shouldn't the money be used for schools, police, fire, road repairs, Parks and Rec, etc.?

The amount requested for the library expansion is not money that the town currently holds. Any funding for future projects will be raised and appropriated when the projects are proposed and approved by voters. The Library Board of Trustees and Library Foundation will raise funds to offset the total project cost.

How will this affect the budget and my taxes?

Because we cannot negotiate a bond without voter approval, it is difficult to assess the potential tax impact. The Library Foundation is committed to offsetting project costs through gifts, donations, and grants. Many grants, some of which would award up to \$1 million, will not accept applications without a show of support from voters.

For more information, visit goffstownlibrary.com.