



The 1833 Society
Peterborough Town Library

2 Concord Street
Peterborough, NH 03458

Established in 1833, first tax-supported public library in the nation.

Guiding Principles for Peterborough Town Library Project

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to share ideas gathered and confirmed from joint meetings with the staff, Library Trustees and 1833 members during the summer of 2015. It contains the following sections: 1) Building Fundamentals – Key features that we want in the new facility, 2) Building Purpose – What we want to see happening in the new building

Building Fundamentals

- ***Accessible by all:*** For too long, our library has not been accessible to all residents. All patrons and staff should have access to the collections. The building must meet or exceed ADA requirements. Function rooms should have after-hours, handicapped access.
- ***Comfortable, cozy, with lots of natural light:*** Our new library should be “right-sized” for our differing patrons and their various needs. Balance of cozy nooks and open spaces. Balance of quiet, reflective places and noisy, interactive arenas. Good and appropriate lighting, and plentiful fresh air are essential.
- ***Welcoming:*** Patrons should feel welcome when they enter. The orientation of the building and its entrances are important. Patrons should feel that they can navigate the library and know how to reach the public service desk. Lighting, color, and openness contribute.
- ***Safe for all, especially small children:*** Staff and patron safety are paramount, inside and outside the library. Lighting, security monitoring, and sight lines will enable staff to manage the building from central locations. Centralized public service desk will provide for flexibility in staffing of the building under safe conditions.
- ***Highly flexible in usage layout:*** We recognize that we are building for needs that may not have been defined yet. We need to maximize flexibility for programs, patron use, and changes in staff. We need to be able to change with technology and make allowances for future expansion and changes in layout. Meeting rooms should be workable for differing sized-groups. Adequate planning for current and future staff needs.
- ***Energy-efficient:*** We would like to make choices that will reduce our operating expenses in the long term.
- ***Low-maintenance:*** Choices about exterior, outdoor spaces, interior and furnishings should take into account the cost of maintaining over the long-term.
- ***Green:*** We would like to take LEED standards and practices into account during design and construction.



- ***High performance, high-tech:*** This building should leverage modern building technologies and be designed to accommodate evolving smart technology infrastructures. It must be able to scale for a growing technology load.
- ***Balanced ratio of stacks to usable space in public areas***
- ***Leverage the waterfront:*** The library should connect to the town, visually and physically. It should encourage flow with the downtown center. Usable outdoor spaces and seating, program areas, and public art.

Building Purpose

The Peterborough Town Library – Library of the Future should be able to meet these identified community needs and desires.

Children and families are able to come and look for books, participate in programs, and explore their space with an appropriate level of energy and noise. Young children have hands-on programs and connect with stories in an enclosed youth-dedicated program space. Middle-school aged students explore on their own and gather with like-minded friends to explore literature, movies, and other topics. Children and Families explore technology in dedicated computer space. Youth have space for dedicated programs, games, and other activities. Tutors meet students on-site. Student study groups gather. Teens and young adults do homework, explore collections, relax, and examine technology in space that meets their needs to be together and separate from the younger and older patrons.

Community Groups hold meetings of different sizes. Small Businesses meet with clients and hold small team meetings. Meetings can take place during or after library hours and use collaboration tools such as whiteboards, smartboards, projectors, audio systems, and kitchen space.

A social space and café promotes casual meet-ups with friends and colleagues.

Reflective quiet space is available to visitors of each generation.

Art is celebrated and is displayed to maximize connection with patrons and encourage discovery.

Local artists leverage the gallery art space to share their works and passions with community members. Public art inside and out promotes connection with Peterborough’s active artist community.

Patrons with an interest in local history have appropriate space to access the unique local history collection. Our collections are accessible for researchers and everyday patrons, while being protected for posterity.

Staff has dedicated workspaces that are conducive to fulfilling both the public portion of their job as well as the “back-office” tasks that are required to keep the library running smoothly.

Patrons of all abilities can use all parts of the library. Signage is clear and technology support is available.

The Friends of the Library have dedicated space for an ongoing booksale which is visible, easy-to-work with, and welcoming to the community. The store is welcoming and easy to understand, and clearly separate from the normal collections.