



## Peterborough Town Library

2 Concord Street, Peterborough, NH 03458-1511 ■ (603) 924-8040 ■ [PeterboroughTownLibrary.org](http://PeterboroughTownLibrary.org)

### V. Justification / Need / Vision:

The Peterborough Town Library was last renovated in 1977. The building is open concept and built in the old model of book warehouse. Libraries today are more than just books. We provide access to vital services, technology, gathering space, meeting space, and early literacy. The public library today should be a community learning hub, yet our town library struggles to provide basic access to the facility.

The need for an updated building is great and the economic benefits of this renovation to the Town of Peterborough will be great. Below is a summary of the facility issues so you may understand why we recommend demolition and new construction.

#### Accessibility

- The library has three egresses: The Main Street portico, the Concord Street entrance, and the parking lot entry. **None of these entrances are ADA compliant.** The Concord Street entrance has a non-compliant ramp that is difficult to navigate for many patrons. We have town residents regularly report that they cannot enter the building due to the conditions.

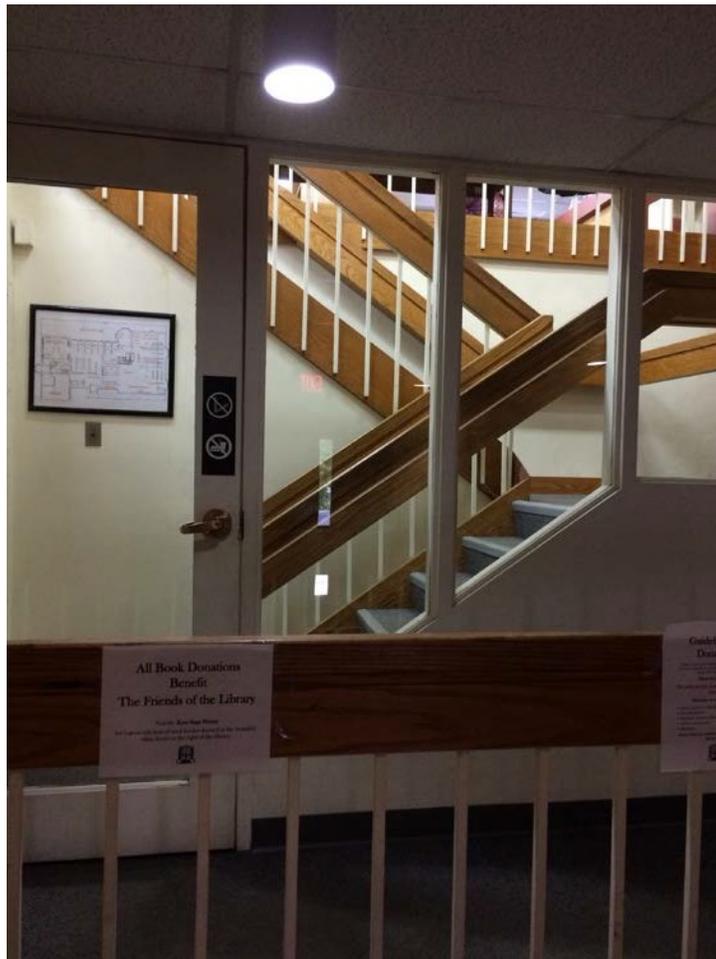




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- The parking lot entrance is the closest entrance to the handicap parking and the meeting hall. Entry to the meeting hall is available via this entry but stairs are the only access to the main library from this entrance. This means that disabled patrons attending a program in the meeting hall must walk outside, through the exit driveway and then up the ramp to access the main library.



- The lack of an elevator is also an issue for staff. Any programming requiring moving furniture or library materials requires staff to load a cart, exit the building using the ramp, walk through the exit driveway, and enter the building through the lower entrance. This is increasingly difficult in the winter months.



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We have patrons who call us from their car and are serviced by staff who bring items directly to their vehicle. Others have stopped using this community resource because it is too difficult to navigate the building. We have a mother struggle to bring her child to story time because she can barely push her son in his wheelchair up the ramp.



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Additionally, our local history collection is on the second floor of the reference room. This collection is not accessible to any residents who cannot navigate stairs. It includes microfilm of the local newspapers, town histories, maps, and more. When students from the schools visit the library to work on projects for local history and NH history curriculum, any students with disabilities cannot join their classroom in the local history room. We make accommodations as best we can for these students.

Restrooms in the meeting hall are not ADA compliant.

**Accessibility should not be an after-thought or add-on to a public facility.** We have seen an increase in concerns from the public due to our accessibility issues.



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### Systems

The library systems are inefficient and many are no longer compliant with various codes.

#### Fire:

The library does not have a fire suppression system. The fire alarm system is not ADA or NFPAQ 72 compliant. It is at the end of its service life.



#### Electrical:

Our electrical system needs to be updated to reflect current requirements. The building has poor lighting throughout public and staff areas. Lighting fixtures fall off the ceiling regularly and cannot be replaced because they are no longer made.

#### Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning Systems:

There are nine thermostats to control the heating system and it is very difficult to maintain comfort in the building. Heat must stay at same level 24 hours because there are no automatic controls or effective zoning. The building has no significant

envelope insulation and is not insulated as per current energy codes. An energy study in 2004 showed considerable heat loss in multiple areas of the building. Shown here are one of the infrared studies showing the fiberglass insulation in the 1977 addition to be largely ineffective.

The exhaust and duct system servicing the restrooms removes only 53% of the amount of air required to be exhausted by current codes. Air quality throughout the building is poor.





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### Technology Infrastructure:

Technology is central to what we do. We have a growing demand to provide technical instruction to the public and focus on technology as a major service to the public.

There are not enough data jacks in the building and they are not properly located. Running cable is expensive and in many cases we tape down or run extremely long cable to avoid incurring costs.

We have four public computers but no instruction spaces for technology instruction and therefore no computer classes or training are offered to the public.





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### Public Service Spaces:

- The circulation desk is not ADA compliant or welcoming. It has a dated and inefficient configuration.
- We do not have any student spaces. We have no young adult space, no student tutoring space, and no designated homework spaces.
- We have ONE inadequate meeting room with bad lighting, terrible acoustics, poor air quality, and poor technology infrastructure. We cannot meet the demands of our patrons in providing quality meeting space of different sizes.
- We have no designated children's program space. We host three early literacy programs per week and move furniture from work spaces to create enough space for families. The children's space is not separate and causes noise issues regularly. Families should feel welcome in the library and free to read aloud and talk with their children.

Lights with no covers.



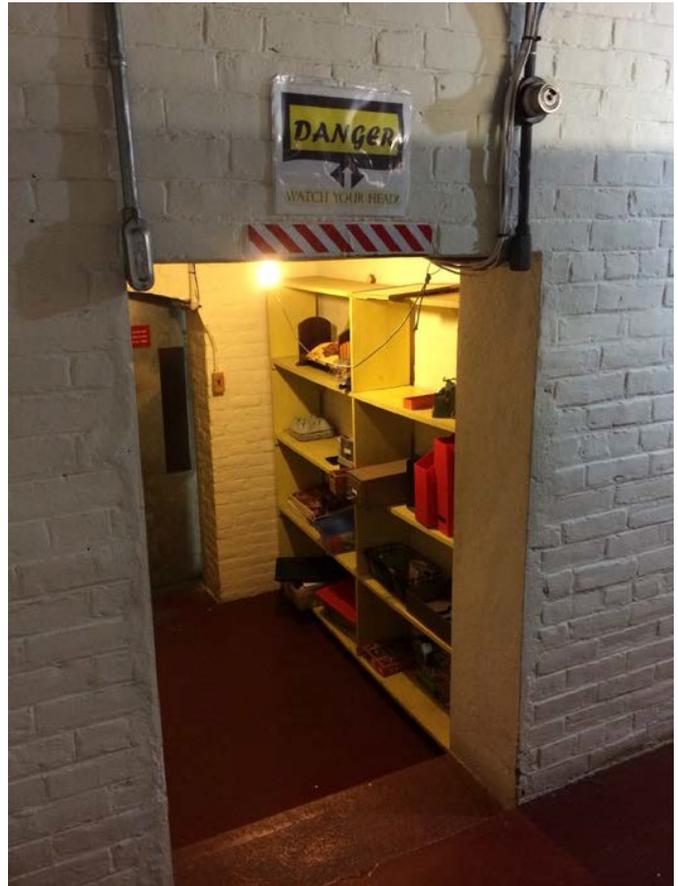


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### **Under-Utilized Spaces:**

Our building is approximately 16,500 square feet. 6,500 square feet are unusable to the public. Half of the basement in the building is unfinished and currently used for storage.





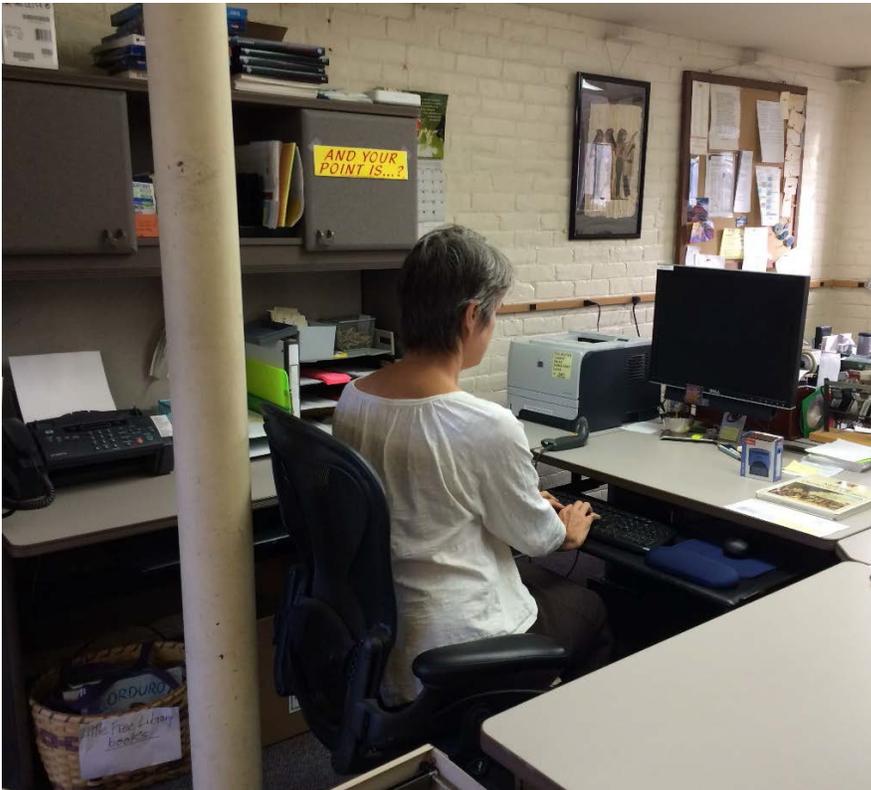
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**Administrative Areas:** The library staff is the most important asset for the library. Staff plan programs, manage publicity and promotions, meet with community volunteers, manage the website and social media, create events and exhibits, order collection materials, and so much more. We service a thriving organization with over 4,500 active users. We need to provide adequate well-lit, accessible, safe, and comfortable office space for our staff.

**Pictured below:**

Staff areas squeezed in among pillars.  
Staff stairway to first floor.





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### **Vision:**

Our vision is to build a Peterborough Town Library that will be a center for literacy and learning, support for economic development, and HUB for community engagement. The building will be efficient, sustainable, and flexible for years to come. We will provide beautiful spaces, inside and out, for the residents of all ages to gather, learn, create, and share.

- We will improve technical literacy and access by providing technology and technical instruction. We help people access government documents, complete vital online transactions, and apply for jobs.
- We will own early literacy for families. We are committed to making sure our community of children are ready for kindergarten and families are engaged in their learning. These are proven indicators for family success.
- We will improve student success by owning after-school hours for youth. By providing designated space with technology and resources that teens want, we will support them in their learning and make sure every teen in Peterborough has access to tools and technology.
- We will boost economic development by providing much needed meeting spaces of all sizes for our students, teachers, home professionals, entrepreneurs, businesses and organizations. We will attract outside events and business to our community with our large meeting space.
- We will support our entrepreneurs and business community by providing coworking space to connect with others, collaborate, meet with clients, and share resources.



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### **Facts on our Project:**

Dedicated volunteers led by our Capital Campaign Chair Audrey White, and Honorary Chairs Dorothy Peterson, Cy Gregg, and Stan Fry, are working diligently with the 1833 Society to make this project possible.

The Capital Campaign has been thoughtfully planned with clear benchmarks and time goals. We are still in the “quiet” phase and have just begun to invite leadership level donors to participate in our campaign. We have \$1.8 million in commitments to date.

The 1833 Society has nine board members including Ron McIntire, Sue Martin, Dick Sawyer, Tina Kriebel, Jim Albridge, Linn Perkins, Audrey White, Karen Clement, and Elaine Keating.

The Library Trustees have five board members: Marcia Patten, Jeanie West, Ron Bowman, Laura Hanson, and Karen Struthers. The Trustees are supporting the project and working in collaboration with the 1833 Society.

We believe the project will be successful only if there is a public/private partnership.

We will be partnering with an architecture design firm to create a design for the library that will respect the historical building and enhance the town.

### **X. Possible Alternatives:**

### **XI. Impact, if Disapproved:**

- Library services will continue to be underutilized.
- Town residents will find the library increasingly inaccessible.
- Teens will continue to see the library as an unappealing place and learning will be under-supported.
- As technology and technical literacy become more important and integrated into daily and vital services, members of our community will have less access to these tools and resources.
- Heating costs will continue to increase.
- Fire system will fail, need replacement, and possibly cause temporary closure of library.