

The following information is a copy of the hand-out distributed at a public meeting on September 19, 2007. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Library Director, Andrea Meluskey, at 516-248-7363 ext. 240 or email her at ameluskey@srpl.org.

SHELTER ROCK PUBLIC LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT

Background Information

The Shelter Rock Library operates in a 23,040 square foot building that opened its doors to the public in 1970. Although the Library was modestly renovated in 1994, we are operating in essentially the same structure that was constructed in 1970.

In 2001, the Board hired Mr. Edwin Beckerman, a Library Consultant to assess the needs of the Library. Following a detailed analysis of the building and its patterns of use, Mr. Beckerman determined that the community would be better served in a Library that is at least twice its current size.

The Library's Board of Trustees spent several years studying the issue and working with architects to develop a plan based on those findings, but in May 2006, in consultation with Town of North Hempstead officials and others, it was determined this approach was too expensive. After a careful study of many options, the Board felt that at this time the most fiscally responsible thing to do was to revise the direction of the project. The Board therefore developed a plan to address the Library's most immediate needs with the existing facility.

Scope of Project

The Board's goal is to provide an environment that is inviting as well as accessible for all patrons. The size of the Library will not increase significantly, but the recommended changes to the structure will create a more pleasant and efficient environment.

The plan includes new lighting, carpeting, furniture and comfortable seating areas throughout the Library. More modern, handicapped-accessible restrooms and automatic doors will also be provided. Additional computers will be available for public use. Young adults will benefit from a larger, teen-friendly place to call their own. Children and their parents will enjoy a more comfortable, child-oriented environment and a handicapped-accessible story hour room.

The staff will be able to serve patrons more efficiently from new public service desks. Work areas will be completely redesigned for increased efficiency and improved work flow.

In addition, a new roof will be installed and the loading dock at the rear of the building will be rebuilt. The parking lot will be re-designed slightly to add a few spaces and to bring handicapped parking closer to the building.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much will it cost?

The Board is requesting approval of a bond for \$6.6 million, to be paid over 15 years. This will cover the cost of construction and furnishings for the renovated facility.

How much will my taxes go up?

According to the Nassau County Department of Assessment, the average home in the district has a market value of \$752,000 with an assessed value of \$1,880. The cost of the renovation for this average taxpayer will be \$52.40 per year or \$4.36 per month.

To find out the current assessed valuation of your home, refer to your most recent tax bill or research your property on www.mynassauproperty.com. The assessed value is then multiplied by the tax rate of 2.787% to establish your annual cost of the renovation.

However, keep in mind that assessed values and tax rates change each year.

If grants are available the Board will apply for money to reduce the bond, but grants are not a guaranteed source of funding.

Will it cost more to operate this renovated Library?

Given the fact that the Library is not significantly increasing in size, operating costs should only be subject to the usual kinds of increases. However, over time the operating budget will increase with the addition of personnel and the cost of associated benefits. Insufficient office space has prevented the Library from hiring necessary staff that would increase efficiency and therefore improve service.

Will I get to vote on the renovation project?

No. The Town of North Hempstead Board will monitor public support for this project and will hold a hearing at Town Hall and vote on the bond.

Will the Library be closed during the renovation?

We are planning carefully to avoid any inconvenience, including any major interruption of services. There may be occasions when the Library has to close for a brief time to guarantee the safety of patrons and staff.

How long will the renovation take?

To avoid major service interruptions, the construction will be phased over 14-18 months.

How long until another expansion/renovation is necessary?

It is anticipated that this renovation will serve the community well for the foreseeable future. As we near the end of ten years after the completion of the renovation, the Board will assess the Library's needs and create an intelligent and fiscally responsible plan for the future.

Who are the architects?

Beatty, Harvey & Associates, one of the nation's leading architectural firms in the planning and design of public libraries, has been selected for the project.

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