

Skaneateles Library Continues to Evaluate Options

SKANEATELES, NY (February 1, 2019) – The Skaneateles Library has seen considerable growth in community engagement, program attendance, the number of items and services available and in general use of the library building. To better serve the library's current and future needs, the Skaneateles Library Association (SLA) is continuing to evaluate potential sites for the library while exploring options for renovation and expansion of the current location.

"Libraries are committed to serving their communities by providing gathering spaces for groups and clubs, as well as comfortable places for people of all ages to read, work and play. We're falling short in our ability to serve due to space and site constraints," said Dave Hempson, recently-appointed president of the Skaneateles Library Board of Trustees. "This is an involved process and we continue to gather the necessary information to make the best decision."

Libraries by nature are inclusive spaces, but due to the extremely limited parking and drop off areas, limited interior program, learning and working spaces, and lack of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, many members of the community are unable to enjoy the programs and services available at the library.

The library continues to evaluate the possibility of renovating the current space and is working with professional library architects Paul Mays and Lisa Hayes on new designs. Understanding the significant limitations of the current space, the Board's Site Committee, made up of select Board members and library staff, is in the process of identifying and evaluating potential new sites for the library.

"We've narrowed down our possibilities to two or three sites in addition to the current site that merit further exploration, but we are still early in the process and are committed to due diligence," said Hempson. "The library is a vital community resource, and we need a space designed to be adaptable for 21st century services that can efficiently respond to changing technologies and user needs well into the future. Whether that space can be at the library's current location or we could better serve our community at another site – we just don't know yet."

Criteria used for evaluating potential spaces has included accessibility, efficiency, aesthetics and cost (a complete list of criteria is available by visiting the library's website). A community space is best developed with community input, and the library continues to welcome suggestions for additional sites. Community members can submit their ideas by sending an email to feedback@skanlibrary.org.

The Skaneateles Library Association's Board of Trustees exists to ensure sound ethical and legal governance and financial management of the library. To learn more about the Board of Trustees and the programs and services available at Skaneateles Library visit SkaneatelesLibrary.org.

About Skaneateles Library: The Skaneateles Library Association's origins date to the early 1800s, when library collections were housed in different businesses throughout the village. As part of its mission to inspire learning, enrich lives and connect the community, the library provides access to a world of information in the form of books (print, audio and electronic), DVDs, music, magazines, newspapers, databases and the Internet (including Wi-Fi). The library also offers a wide variety of educational and entertaining programs for kids, teens and adults throughout the year. The Skaneateles Library is a member of the Onondaga County Public Library System. For more information visit SkaneatelesLibrary.org

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