



Skaneateles Library Board of Trustees Votes in Favor of Relocation

SKANEATELES, NY (December 10, 2019) – The Skaneateles Library Board of Trustees voted unanimously on Tuesday to relocate the library.

The Board's decision is a result of more than three years of extensive and exhaustive research coupled with community input. The results of this work made it clear that in order to better serve the current and future needs of the 9,000 school district residents who help fund the library, a new library was the best long-term investment for the community.

A new facility will provide greater access to the extensive services and activities provided and made possible by the library.

In September 2019 the library voted to retain ownership of the current building on Genesee Street in the event of a move. The library board recognizes the value of the current library building to the community and plans to repurpose the building for community benefit.

"This evening's vote in favor of relocating the library is the decision that needed to be made in order to move forward with any type of expansion and improvement to accessibility and services. It is an honor to work with such a dedicated and professional board, who execute their fiduciary responsibilities with the community's best interest at heart," said Dave Hempson, president of the board of trustees. "The need for more space and services was recognized as far back to the 1950's if not before."

The vote held on Tuesday did not include a decision on the specific location for the new building.

"The site committee, composed of library board and staff members, has worked tirelessly over the last few years to identify all available and viable opportunities for a new library building," said Hempson. "In 2020, we will focus on securing a location that best serves all members of the community."

In addition, the board will focus on identifying the immediate work that must be undertaken to improve accessibility for the current building while maintaining its historic value and address the needs of an expanded Barrow Gallery.

A community space is best developed with community input, and the library continues to welcome suggestions from community members by submitting their ideas via email to feedback@skanlibrary.org.

The Skaneateles Library's Board of Trustees exists to ensure sound ethical and legal governance and financial management of the library. The board recognizes its responsibility to the library's mission and vision, and as a result has taken this bold step in an effort to meet our community's needs.

To learn more about the Board of Trustees and to review the Skaneateles Library Long Range Plan for 2020-2025 and information about the process for relocation visit skanlibrary.org.

About Skaneateles Library: The Skaneateles Library'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 Skaneateles Library visit skanlibrary.org.