



Skaneateles Library Update – First Quarter 2020

The Skaneateles Library, in order to wholly fulfill its mission and vision, has decided to relocate to a new site to build a library that offers access, space and flexibility – and is truly the hub of a vibrant, thriving community for current and future generations. You may have seen our press release in December 2019 announcing the decision.

The library will retain ownership of the building at 49 E. Genesee Street. The Barrow Art Gallery will remain in place and will likely expand into a small portion of what is currently library space. We are also exploring opportunities with other local nonprofits like the Chamber of Commerce and the Skaneateles Historical Society. The future is bright for this iconic building on our main street, adding value to our community at large and the downtown district.

The process we are undertaking to build a new library will include these major steps: site selection, required permits and approvals, fundraising and grant applications, design, and contractor selection.

The money for the new library will be raised through private fundraising efforts and available grants. The tax levy will be used to support operations and will not be used for construction.

The site committee has narrowed down the original 18 possible sites to two – a set of criteria was used to narrow down the options, criteria included: zoning, traffic concerns, lot size, parking, natural areas, proximity to population, pedestrian access to name a few. This committee is working with the owners of the two sites to further explore the overall value that each unique site has to offer.

This is a significant project that will take a few years to come to fruition. The library board's committees will be working on each aspect of this project both at 49 E. Genesee Street and for a new site to ensure smooth execution.

Our trustees invested significant time and effort to make this decision, the decision to build a new library, and we firmly believe it is in the best long-term interest of the community.

"To inspire learning, enrich lives, and connect our community", requires space that is transformational, so in the final analysis we understood that to achieve this we would need a new library building. We also know that our current building can continue to be a vital community asset.

As your Library Board, we are committed to proceeding transparently as we implement the changes ahead. We will do so by involving the community to the fullest extent possible. Clear and timely communications are key. We appreciate your input to date and continue to solicit your valuable ideas.

Please check the library website regularly, especially the "About" tab with the latest information about the transition to this next chapter. And, as always, contact us at feedback@skanlibrary.org.

Respectively Submitted;

Dave Hempson
Skaneateles Library Board President