

# ROCKPORT LIBRARY PLANNING

## What's Going On?

Update from the Ad Hoc Library Planning Committee 2/15/16

### CHAPTER 1

#### Frequently Asked Questions

##### **Why did the library move?**

After nearly 70 years of wear and tear, and four renovations, the building was no longer safe for employees or patrons, was not ADA compliant and had limited access to crawl spaces. Water damage and drainage issues were part of foundation problems. There was also strong evidence that there was mold in two of the basements and in the walls. The second story was never built to house office space and no safe exit was available. All of these factors added up to moving. An engineering study that identified these issues was completed in June 2015; this report is available online at the Rockport Public Library and [here](#).

##### **How long is temporary?**

We anticipate the Rockport Public Library will be temporarily housed at 485 Commercial Street (Route 1) for two to three years. Ultimately, how long it remains there will come down to how long it takes to get funding in place and the building project completed.

##### **Why not just stay in the temporary space?**

While the current space works fairly well (and we love the parking), the building is not designed to be a library and has a number of functional and additional cost challenges that would compromise its long term use. The Select Board voted, after much consideration and public input, to locate the future library in Rockport Village.

##### **Where is the new library going to be built?**

The new library will be in the village of Rockport. The Request For Qualifications to architects specifically asks them to design and oversee building a new library to be situated on the a) existing site, b) the park site across Limerock Street, or c) both.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **So the former Rockport Elementary School site is off the table?**

Yes, the Select Board voted to build any future library on what they are calling the “combined site”, made up of Memorial Park, the old library at 1 Limerock Street, or a combination thereof.

### **How big will the new library be?**

At this early stage in the planning process, the size of the new library is unknown. The Select Board voted to accept the Library Committee’s space recommendation for a new library of 8750 square feet of usable space. (View the recommendation report [here](#)). This size allows for growth so that current needs can be adequately met as well as plan for the future.

### **How much will it cost to build a new library?**

It’s too early in the planning process to identify the final cost of the project. The goal is to have the cost of the project shared between public and private financing. The committee will be reviewing proposals by the architect firms. We anticipate that by summer we will have draft project designs & estimated associated costs to share with the community.

### **What will the library look like?**

We are in the process of selecting an architectural firm that will be recommending a final design. The Planning Committee envisions a building that feels natural and at home in a small New England town center, and a facility that is contemporary in thought, flexible in use, and planned and constructed for the possibility of future expansion.

### **What is going to happen to the old Library?**

We don’t know what the future holds for that building. The building has been winterized to mitigate any further issues.

### **How do I learn more?**

**Email** the Ad Hoc Library Planning Committee (AHLPC) at [LibraryPlanning@town.rockport.me.us](mailto:LibraryPlanning@town.rockport.me.us)

**Go to** the [AHLPC info hub](#) on the Rockport Library website for meeting minutes & schedule, news, & updates.

**Watch** meetings at <http://livestream.com/Rockportmaine>

**Talk** to a member of **the Ad Hoc Library Planning Committee:**

Eric Denny, Erik Frederick, Ann Filley, Library Committee liaison Stephanie Kumble, Heather Mackey, Select Board liaison Tracy Murphy, committee Chairman Jan Rosenbaum, Vice Chairman Joe Sternowski, and Ex-Officio, Library Director Ben Blackmon.