

JOHNSON ROBERTS ASSOCIATES



## Why do we need a public library in the digital age?

Today's modern library, especially one in a small town, still needs to serve the preferences of the "traditional book reader." At the same time, Deerfield residents have come to expect more than a traditional service model for its library. In addition to reading and research, users now expect services to include creating, computing, learning, and socializing as well as community services such as story times for children, language classes for immigrants and free access to computers.

The digital age has made libraries more important than ever. In this digital age, trained librarians provide access to the Internet for patrons who are unfamiliar with technology and/or with online resources. The more complex digitized information becomes, the more library users need librarians to help them find their way.

People still read books and today's libraries still lend books. Sales of paper books have steadily risen and children's books and adult trade books continue to increase their sales.

## How will the Town of Deerfield benefit from a renovated and expanded library?

An expanded library, with more space, will be able to provide all the services of a modern public library that Deerfield residents want.

Tilton Library will have space for town residents to go to use the Internet, to work or study in a quiet and comfortable place, to enjoy the air-conditioning in summer, and to meet in small or large groups. It will have space for children to experience books and storytelling, for teens to be together in a safe environment after school, and for seniors to attend classes or join discussion groups.

The expanded library will continue to anchor the village of South Deerfield: it will preserve, restore, and modernize the town's most historic public building; it will add to the visual character of the town; and it will boost community pride. It will make the Town of Deerfield a more desirable place to live and work.

## How does this project further meet the needs of Deerfield's seniors?

Library resources, events, and programs are intended to serve all of Deerfield's residents, including seniors. Programs will be offered during the day that are geared toward seniors, such as a computer class or craft workshop, but would be open to all. A ground floor coffee area with seating and tables will provide an ideal location for socializing.

The new addition will have a modern elevator making it much easier for people with less mobility to access the entire building. There will also be bathrooms on each floor.

## Will the project be energy efficient?

Yes. The building will be designed so that it will have LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council when it is completed. The project designer has concentrated on points and strategies that will give the project the most LEED benefits for the lowest upfront cost.

The current building will be renovated to increase its energy efficiency and all aspects of the new addition will be designed and built to be energy efficient. The roof on the addition will be equipped with solar panels. We expect that the energy components of the project will exceed code requirements.

**What services does Tilton Library currently offer to the town of Deerfield?**

Tilton Library provides:

- Loans of books, eBooks, audiobooks, music CDs, DVDs, museum passes, puzzles, reading kits, and various miscellaneous items from the Tilton collection, and interlibrary loans from Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing consortium (C/W MARS, Inc.) comprising 8.5 million items from over 150 member libraries.
- Use of the C/W MARS on-line catalog, with a link to the Commonwealth Catalog, which includes millions of items from libraries throughout Massachusetts.
- Access to the Internet through Tilton Library's Wi-Fi network
- A growing Library of Things collection (Sewing Machine, Ukulele, Hotspots)
- Assistance using electronic library resources
- Use of desk top and lap top computers and tablets inside Tilton Library
- Use of color printer, photocopiers, fax services
- Seating at common work tables and in individual reading chairs
- Library programs for adults including book discussions, author talks, craft workshops, language conversation practice, and caregiver support
- Library programs for children including story time and a summer reading program

**What are the current Library's unmet needs?**

- Space to shelve new books (for every new book added to Tilton Library's collection, another book has to come off the shelf)
- Separate space for Tilton Library programs and events so they won't interfere with other patron's use of Tilton Library
- Separate space for teens to gather after school and on Saturdays
- Separate space for quiet work and study
- Larger meeting space for special events and large meetings
- More bathrooms
- More computer terminals and work space
- Separate space for Trustees and Friends of Tilton Library to meet that doesn't interfere with other patron's use

**What is the history of the current building?**

Tilton Library was built in 1916 with funds from the Chauncey Tilton estate. At that time, the population of Deerfield was 2,500; since then, the population has doubled to approximately 5,250 today. The original building is 3,650 square feet. A 716 square foot addition was added in 1997 to provide handicapped access.

The planned new addition incorporates and reflects the historic design of the original building for both the exterior and the interior. The intent is to have Tilton Library continue to be a stunning focal point at the center of town. The original building will be renovated and modernized but will look and "feel" the same.

**What are the features of the Library expansion design?**

Besides nearly three times the space for people, books and programs, the proposed project includes a meeting room, small group activity rooms, expanded children's room with flexible parent/play and story time areas and appropriately sized reading areas. Reading and conversation will return to the original reading room in the 1916 space and two quiet study areas and a self-service business center will be in the addition. A separate space for teens to study, use a computer and socialize will include space for four times as many books as are currently available for this age group. Computer stations will increase from three to fourteen. Adult books and other materials will be stored on mobile shelving and will allow the collection to increase in both depth and breadth and the space to remain adaptable.

The schematic design calls for the removal of the 716 square foot addition on the south side of the library, the construction of a 9,134 square foot two-story addition, and the renovation of the original space. The total size of Tilton Library will be expanded from 4,366 square feet to 12,784 square feet.

The south side of the building will be restored to the way it looked before the 716 square foot addition was added, and the original arched windows will be reinstalled. The distinctive windows will be replicated in the addition.



**How will the building meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act?**

The building will be fully ADA accessible. The main entrance at the side of the building leads to a lobby with an elevator to the main floor. There will be two accessible bathrooms on the ground floor and two on the main floor.

**Will the use of glass panels at the main entrance reduce the energy efficiency of the project?**

The majority of the glass seen in the section of the schematic design connecting the original building with the new construction is spandrel glass which has an insulated wall behind it and is not see-through. Spandrel glass is designed to be opaque in order to hide features such as vents, wires, slab ends and mechanical equipment.

**Why not tear down the current building and do all new construction?**

Tilton Library is the best-maintained historic building in South Deerfield. It is structurally sound and reflects the Town's deep history and pride in that history. The Library's Space Needs Committee, Tilton Library patrons, and Deerfield residents have all expressed a strong desire to maintain the current, historic building.

During the planning and design phase the Tilton Library Space Needs Committee identified four additional potential building sites. For various reasons, (permitting district, wetlands, and possible site contamination) three of these were not given further consideration. Land located off Braeburn Road, in the town center, was considered and preliminary drawings were made. Ultimately this site was rejected because of difficult vehicular access, lack of visibility from the main street and lack of a presence or connection with the downtown center.

**Will the character of the building be lost?**

No. The proposed project will include renovation of the current building with an eye to maintaining the hallmark architectural features including paneling, windows and detailing.

**Will the front entrance be used?**

The main entrance to Tilton Library will remain on the side of the building, adjacent to the parking lot, as it is now. The front entrance at the top of the marble stairs will continue to be open in the warmer months, as it is now, but it will not be handicapped accessible.

**Will any of the trees surrounding the library have to be removed to make room for the expansion?**

Many Deerfield residents and patrons have indicated that the trees on Tilton Library property are very important focal points. It is anticipated that the smaller tree behind the building would sustain root damage during construction and will need to be removed. Efforts will be made to see if the wood from this tree could be used in the building or as a component of the furnishings. If so, the wood would need to be salvaged and seasoned.

**How has the Library expansion project developed?**

Members of the Tilton Library Space Needs Committee have been working since September 2015 to assess the needs of the current facility and to direct an architect in developing a schematic design for an addition to Tilton Library that will serve the needs of Deerfield residents for at least the next 20 years.

In January 2017, Tilton Library submitted an application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) for a grant to pay for approximately half the cost of the addition. In July 2017, the MBLC announced that Tilton Library was #12 on the waitlist to receive a grant in the coming years. After the stage grant funds have been allocated, Tilton Library has six months to raise the remainder of the funds with contributions from the Town of Deerfield and from the capital campaign, the *Campaign for Tilton Library*.

**Why does this need to happen now? Can we wait and apply for state funding next year or the year after?**

The Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program is funded by the state legislature in seven to ten year cycles. We have applied for a grant in the current round. The projects that are selected in this round will be funded over a period of four years, beginning in 2017. If we did not apply for a grant in this cycle, we would have had to wait until the next round is announced, which would not be before 2025, with funding available no sooner than 2027. The next grant cycle will be much more strict and competitive, so there is no guarantee that Tilton would receive a grant in the next cycle, potentially putting this project off for decades.

<b>Will the library continue to operate during construction?</b>	Yes. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners requires that we continue to provide library services during the construction phase. Because our current building will be a construction zone, we can't maintain services in the structure, so we will operate out of a temporary site for the duration of the construction. We have not yet identified that site but are hopeful to find a fully accessible building that is conveniently located.	In June 2016, Special Town Meeting voted to accept the schematic design developed by the Tilton Library Space Needs Committee and voted to allow the Trustees to apply for a construction grant from the MBLC. A third Town Meeting vote is required to expend Town funds for this project after the MBLC notifies the Town that the grant application has been approved.
<b>Will it cost the Town more to operate the new library structure?</b>	Although the space is larger, the renovations and new construction will provide a tremendous amount of energy efficiency allowing us to cut our total energy costs. Cleaning and some grounds maintenance costs will increase while others may decrease or remain the same. Landscaping will be composed of native plant materials and no permanent irrigation systems are proposed. We expect that sewer usage and interior water usage will increase.	<b>Will CPA funds be used?</b> This project qualifies for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to preserve and restore the original historic building. Tilton Library Board of Trustees will seek a funding recommendation from Deerfield's CPA committee when the total dollar amount for this portion of the project is known.
<b>Will staffing levels need to be adjusted?</b>	A new and expanded facility will provide the opportunity for increased efficiency with improved staff work areas, sight lines and work flow but at the same time, circulation and use of the library will increase. When this occurs we will demonstrate the need for adjusted levels of support. For the first time, there will be specific space for teens and we expect there will be opportunities to enhance teen services as more people in this age group use their library. Other libraries in towns the size of Deerfield and smaller have demonstrated a need for staffing for teens. In March of 2022 Tilton hired its first teen librarian with very part time hours. This position will gradually increase in hours slowly over time.	<b>What is the timeline for completion of this project?</b> <b>JANUARY 2017:</b> Application for grant to cover half of the building costs was submitted to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) <b>JULY 2022:</b> \$3.95M Grant from MBLC is offered after 5 years on the waitlist. We have 6 months to obtain the rest of the funding from the Tilton Fund's capital campaign and from Deerfield Town Meeting. <b>OCTOBER 2022:</b> A two-thirds majority vote is needed at a Special Town Meeting, and if passed then the project will go on the November election ballot. <b>JANUARY 2023:</b> After obtaining the rest of the funding, the Architect and Project Manager will finalize the design with community input, and then project goes into construction. Estimated completion time is about 2 years once funding is secured.
<b>What actions has Deerfield Town Meeting taken on this project?</b>	In April 2014, Annual Town Meeting voted to authorize the Tilton Library Board Trustees to proceed with a feasibility study to examine options for expanding Tilton Library and voted to allow the Trustees to apply for a planning and design grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.	<b>Who is the contact person for this project?</b> Candace Bradbury-Carlin, Library Director 413-665-4683; cbradbury-carlin@cwmares.org