

How much will the new library cost?

The Town voted on and approved a \$12M project. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners granted the Town a \$7.5M grant. The goal is to use private donations and public funds to offset the costs for the remainder of the project.

How can I donate money to the library building project?

Donations can be made directly to the library building project.

Pledge forms are available at the library and on line. WEBSITE: www.corbinlibrary.org and click on the Interested in Donating Link.



Chester C. Corbin Public Library



Construction Project Frequently Asked Questions

Chester C. Corbin Public Library

2 Lake Street
Webster, MA 01570

Phone: 508-949-3880
Website: www.corbinlibrary.org

Why do we need a new library?

The Chester C. Corbin library was built in 1920. The building has a total of 7,400 square feet on two floors. Since the library was built no major structural improvements have been made. The space is limited by two staircases located at opposite ends of the building; the staircases reduce the amount of useable space. The two floors contain the adult reading room on the first floor and the children's area in the basement.

Areas of concern include: limited technology access, lack of quiet study spaces, no space for young adults, limited space for the children's programs, no space for common meeting rooms, no community room, no local history room, limited parking, On-going problems include: a dated electrical system, inefficient heating and cooling systems, plumbing problems, no water fountains and no running water or rest rooms in the children's area, and physical deterioration of the building. The library no longer meets the needs of the community and has limited the kinds of programs offered to the community.

The Central and Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing (C/W Mars) network provides resource sharing among libraries. Resource sharing is based upon reciprocity. If a community does not fund their community library, residents lose their membership to C/W Mars. What this means is if Webster does not have a public library, residents are considered decertified and other libraries cannot loan material or provide services to anyone who resides in the Town of Webster.

I have electronic readers and the internet. Why do we need a public library?

The modern library is much more than books. It is an information center, whether that information is print information or electronic information. Public libraries assure that every citizen, rich or poor, has

access to the same quantity and quality of information. Through the library virtually every resource is available to every resident.

In addition, libraries are now community centers. The new library will offer space for small and large groups to meet. The library will be able to hold talks and even classes, enriching all of the members of our community. Last year alone we held over one hundred children's programs and twenty-six adult programs. We had over 250 children participate in the summer reading program and over 43,000 items were loaned out to Webster residents and members of the C/W Mars consortia.

What happened to the previous design and the architect?

In order to qualify for grant money from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, a grant application complete with site plans and schematic designs had to be submitted to the commission. The schematic design was completed in 2011 by the architectural firm of Drummey, Rosane and Anderson (D.R.A). And while some of the elements of the original design were considered, for the most part the design was dated and no longer cost effective.

After receiving the funding, the building committee submitted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design of the new library. After interviewing several firms, the committee selected the firm to design the library. Priorities for the building committee were: experience designing libraries, previous work with the Massachusetts Library Commission and experience working with municipalities.

The architectural firm of Oudens and Ello was selected and has worked closely with the building committee to design a building that will meet the programming needs of our library and our community.

The new library will be approximately three times the size of the old library and will be completely handicapped accessible. Features in the new design include: extensive space for technology and mixed media, a local history room to allow research and to preserve town artifacts, an expanded children's area and a section for young adults, a community room on the first floor for large gatherings and small study spaces on the second floor.

What is the estimated timeline?

It is estimated that the design phase will be completed in the Spring of 2016; the library will move into the existing Town Hall Auditorium space during the Summer of 2016; in the Fall of 2016 the demolition of the existing library will begin; construction of the new library will begin in the Fall of 2016 with anticipated construction completed in January of 2018.

Will the library be open during demolition and construction?

YES, the library will be open during demolition and construction; the temporary library will be housed in the Town Hall Auditorium and will be in operation during construction. The library hours will not change; please check the library website for updated information: www.corbinlibrary.org.

If the Auditorium is being used to house the temporary library, where will the citizens vote?

Voting will take place in the Senior Center and/or at the United Church of Christ auditorium.

