

TO: Board of Selectmen (BOS)
FROM: Working Group of Library Planning Committee (LPC)
DATE: Nov. 2, 2017
SUBJECT: Reuse of current Library building at 5 Concord Road

At the April 2018 Town Meeting, residents will decide whether to fund construction of a new library at 195 Main Street, adjacent to the middle school. A \$10M state grant would contribute approximately 40% of the costs in question. If residents vote to build a new library, exciting opportunities exist for the current library building at 5 Concord Road.

At the request of the BOS, a working group of the Library Planning Committee has developed a list of possible future uses for 5 Concord Road. The working group gathered ideas from various sources including prior studies of the building, the WRAP report, a meeting with Ben Keefe regarding town department needs, several public forums on the state of library services in Wayland, and nearly two years of research and visits to other libraries by the LPC as a whole.

An October 19, 2017 meeting of the LPC was advertised as an invitation to the public to offer ideas for repurposing 5 Concord Road. It was the consensus of attendees—LPC members, town officials, and residents alike—that the current library should remain a town building where people can find opportunities for enrichment and engagement. While converting the building to town offices would not close it to the public, it would not invite people to enjoy the building as a community. The idea of selling the building to a developer was uniformly and loudly rejected.

Suggested uses for 5 Concord Road fall into three categories: open public use, town use, and private use.

Open to the Public	Town Use	Private Use
Cultural center featuring the visual arts, music performances, studio use, and exhibits on the history of Wayland and the Sudbury River	Department offices, perhaps Land Use	Condos/apartments
Teen center/cafe		Event rental
Art and technology/innovation center		Restaurant or retail
Adult education, maker space, reading room		

The idea of what constitutes a library has greatly broadened over time, and is best reflected in the American Library Association's current definition of the term: "A library is

a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is (1) organized by information professionals or other experts who (2) provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and (3) offer targeted services and programs (4) with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audiences (5) and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole."

<http://libguides.ala.org/library-definition>

Inspired by this definition as well as the Wayland Public Library's own mission¹, the LPC working group recommends that the reuse of 5 Concord Road draw from the category "Open to the Public." Within this category, driven by residents' input and by our own research, the working group suggests to the BOS that the town explore a variety of possibilities under the general umbrella of an arts, history, and/or cultural center. Activities in such a center could include art classes, talks, workshops, space for exhibits on local history, a reading room, a library book drop, and a maker space. None of these activities would preclude the coexistence of others. This type of use would also honor the intent of Dr. Warren Roby to provide Wayland residents with a modern library facility and services.

The working group further suggests that the town undertake an extensive and deliberate process to achieve consensus on the future of 5 Concord Road, as the building is dear to the heart of the town. We recommend that the BOS establish a committee for this purpose that includes (but is not limited to) representatives at large, board/committee representatives such as Selectmen, Historical Commission members, and others deemed appropriate.

Respectfully submitted by The Working Group of the Library Planning Committee:
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¹ Wayland Free Public Library Mission Statement:

The mission of the Wayland Free Public Library is to be a free and accessible marketplace of ideas, information, and culture that fosters learning, community, and information literacy. The Library provides open and guided access to a wide variety of media and programs to inform, inspire, and empower all its patrons in their pursuit of lifelong learning, personal enrichment, and cultural understanding. In so doing, the Library seeks to promote the free exchange of ideas necessary to the effective conduct of a democracy in an ever-changing world.

Adopted September 19, 2006, by the Board of Trustees, Wayland Free Public Library