

Questions to Ask When Considering a Building Project (A Partial List)

A list of questions to ask others who have gone through a building project, stakeholders, the library board, etc.

Questions to ask others who have been through a building project:

- What do you wish you had known at the beginning?
- What unexpected issues did you encounter?
- What turned out to be the biggest surprise of the entire process?
- Which “green design” features work the best? The worst?
- How did you involve the community in the planning and implementation?
- What was your funding process like?
- What design elements did you use to create flexible use of the space?
- How did you manage the project?
- What methods did you use to solicit and select vendors, architects, designers, etc.?

Questions for the Board and Stakeholders when Considering a Building Project:

- What needs will this problem meet, and how do we know those are needs of the community?
- How will we solicit the input of our community? The town administration? The selectboard?
How will we get buy-in?
- How might this project fit into other funding priorities of the town/community?
- How might this project fit into the planning priorities of our town/the Town Plan?
- Who are the stakeholders we need to involve in this project?
- Who might we want on a planning committee?
- What funding sources might be available? Do we have systems set up to solicit, accept, and manage donations?
- Do we need a feasibility study?
- Who is going to be the point person for the project? Who might be the project manager?
- Are there any partners that might be interested in working with us on the project?
- Are there ways the current space can be redesigned or renovated to meet changing needs?
- Who can help us conduct a cost-benefit analysis of our potential ideas?
- Is the current space considered an historic building? If so, how might that affect public sentiment around the plans?
- If the existing library has issues with accessibility, energy efficiency, safety, hazard mitigation, or building integrity, are those problems solvable?
- How might the project fit into the library’s strategic plan, mission, and vision?