

QUESTION 7: Please add any additional questions or perspectives you might want the committee to hear or respond to!

It's about books, physical and digital
I have lived in Cape all of my life, it is important to me that you keep the existing school buildings and the original Thomas Memorial Library. These are what built our community. I went to school in those buildings and went to the one room library. It would be nice to restore the original to one room and set it up as it was in the past. This town can not afford a new building which seems to be the direction you are going in, it was voted down once and it will be voted down again. Be sensible with our tax dollars, the way libraries are used is changing with technology as it is today. I agree that changes need to be made but just do it around the old historical buildings some of which my ancestors built
I went to the library all the time where I used to live because it was bright and open. With lots of places to sit and enjoy the isles and isles of books. I go to the library here and get in and get out. The people that work there are lovely but it is no building I want to be in. Our library needs a facelift. Big windows, more places to sit. Updated media rooms etc, etc.
Thanks for your hard work on this difficult task.
I like #5 above best BUT "consistent with available community resources" puts a decided damper on my ranking of this statement. The Cape community prides itself on supporting education, and the TML is an educational institution, and in fact sees and nurtures children long before they ever get to kindergarten. So, let's not act like the library is an isolated institution in Cape Elizabeth. It is a major part of the educational environment of our community and we should all be willing to support it and bring the TML into the 21st century!
Having lived and used the libraries in Portland (pre-renovation) and South Portland, there is something magical about the Cape library for me and my child. We use it much more than any other town library we have had access to.
Firstly I don't like that you got rid of fines. It means people are less inclined to return material in a timely manner which makes our wait longer!! Plus I had no problem with my kids learning to be responsible for their loans and returning them in a timely manner or facing the reasonable monetary consequence if not. Lastly, my family loves the CE library!! Despite the physical challenges of the building (which I don't really see as much but then I'm not working there!) you guys all do a fantastic job and the service offered is invaluable regardless of the tech age we live in. Thank you!
Let's build a new facility and spend our tax/bond money on a place ALL Cape residents can use, not just on the schools for children.
Renovation at minimal cost. \$8,000 000 was hard to fathom
Despite being quite successful bringing in foot traffic with coffee shops, cafes and lots of sitting areas, the big book stores have been going out of business because the people coming in are enjoying a comfortable/quiet place with lots of books where they can read, peruse, talk a little and have a nice coffee, tea, etc... but they are not buying enough books. But a library is not trying to sell books. Why not put a cafe in the library and a lot more comfortable seating and take advantage of what the book stores learned the hard way?
A new facility is NOT needed, but certainly the current one can be updated, modernized and modified as we move through the 21st century. More computers, reading spaces, expand the DVD collection, continued access to all types of reading material.
Please make the library accessible for everyone to enjoy...thank you!
Community Center should work with the library to offer better programming at night/on weekends that is appealing to all ages.
Do not give up on your efforts to improve the TML. Thanks.
I think that the library should provide an alternative to virtual knowledge -- through physical collections, art and space for human face to face sharing. Doesn't mean exclude the virtual, but to me, it makes sense that the preservation of the physical alternative to the virtual world be publicly supported.
Aside from our schools, the library is our most important community resource that needs to grow in that capacity. It can accommodate the needs of all members of the community, who can enjoy Cape together and equally regardless of their financial status (an increasingly divisive and embittering situation of haves and have-nots)
I think the library's primary mission should be to encourage a lifelong love of learning and independent thought. This is best accomplished by focusing on school age children
I have stated this on previous surveys. TML is NOT a friendly library. Please compare ours to Scarborough, with its openness and friendliness of the workers. We need changes and it should start at the top! If the Director isn't replaced, PLEASE keep him away from the front desk. He doesn't welcome, smile, engage in any way. Customer service training is needed by most of the staff.

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Where to start? As mentioned in a previous comment, your information gathering (as well as the public forum from a few weeks back) completely overlooks adult programming and - generally - any idea that the library is a place simply for "being". I feel this initiative is too focused on trying to placate those in the community that question the idea of "space" in a library when, simply put, "space" is what a library IS. Where libraries everywhere are evolving to expand and become flexible with their missions, material offerings, programs, etc., the process of the project seems to focus on "what can we do without?" or "do we REALLY need anything in this building but bookshelves?" The lack of imagination for our library (and our community) is distressing.

Should use private funds to build and maintain, taxes in Cape already too high

more lively children's space - should encourage games, play, integrated space - existing vibe now is that it is a place kids should be very quiet.. doesn't make it feel "fun". rangeley library is a great example of creating a great, inspiring environment.

I do not think the town needs 4 libraries within a half mile. I would only support a town library if the high school and middle school close their libraries. I have two children who haven't used the school or town libraries in ten years. Technology makes it easier to download any book or information they need for school or entertainment. My husband and I also download books, articles, magazines, etc. I truly believe as the older generation of today passes away, the need for a library will be obsolete. This is sad but it is the future. The town has many buildings that can serve as "community-gathering" place. I understand that my opinions is not what the committee wants to hear but as the last vote showed, I am not alone in these thoughts.

Current facility is fine. People under 21 no longer visit libraries, but do all their research and reading electronically.

I think the internet has developed to the point that without leaving the house and starting the car its existence has replaced much of what a library can offer. Virtual libraries will be the norm before we know it. Not many homes in Cape are without internet access. The town already has plenty of available room that can be used as a gathering place or a cultural destination etc etc.

thank you for this opportunity to share our opinions

Our library is a wonderful resource that enhances the abundant educational opportunities being provided by the school department and community services. A collaboration of the three would ensure quality experiences for all without duplication of efforts and finances.

don't try to do too much--make sure as many books and and periodicals are available w/ a welcoming staff that can help find them...library does not need to be a social center

I did not like the rank ordering system in question #6 because it forced me to, in effect, express support for ideas that I believe are not good directions for the library. I can tell the crafters of the survey are seeking support for a vision of the library that in my opinion is off-mission, costly, and unwise--namely, spending money on community-oriented spaces, taking services offsite, and providing more instruction on things like computers. With so few resources, please focus on shoring up the facility (not a new facility, but fixing the current one) and on the core mission of loaning books.

I do NOT agree with spending money for the sake of keeping alive any ideas that are passe, or the idea of keeping the library if most in community are not in favor. All too often in Cape Elizabeth, the few speak loudly for the many, and select minority make decisions for an all too quite majority.

the 5 statements in item 6 clearly are different from each other but i really can't rank them because it is not easy to distinguish them from each other. words are limiting. what is it you are trying to find out? ask more directly. isn't the library already trying to do all these things? the library is not as successful in being "what our library ought to be" because of limitations of resources, including budget, physical space, staff and so on. where do people in cape elizabeth get their community connections? definitely the schools (i do not have children there nor does everyone in town); churches (i do not belong to a cape church); the cape fitness center or pool (i belong to the fitness center); the iga or one of the other local businesses (i try to shop local); the trail system or local parks/beaches (i try to get outside); maybe their neighborhood (our neighborhood has large lots and folks don't really connect with each other); AND THE LIBRARY (people in our family go 2-3 times a week. we see people as we go in and out of the library but we rarely stay because there is not much comfortable space. we go get out books, cds, or dvds, and leave.). other communities have fabulous libraries. we are a fabulous community and our library should be fabulous, too. i think the early proposal for the library did not pass because townspeople felt that we spent/wasted too much money on buildings for the police department, community services, the fire department, and town support services located at gull crest. then there are people who never read or never go to a library so they have no idea what a library can and should be. good luck.

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I do not agree with any of your descriptions. You are leading the person filling in the survey to agree with the assumptions that you list. All of them are too etherial and subjective leading the citizens too vote for the statements made....Poor questions. How about asking what you use at the library and how many times you take out a book or use the computers there. I think that the stats published of the useage of the library as it stands are very overstated. The numbers do not add up . I have been in the library on numerous occasions and at most there are two maybe three people in the main room, reading magazines. Sorry I do not agree with spending money on a non existent need, especially when repair forecasts for existing town/school structures looms LARGE.

I did not vote for the library proposal because it was not commensurate with the population. I do think if you proposed a library that merged community and school libraries, the scope of your plan made better sense for our very small town. Of course, the location would have to be in a site that all classes could easily visit during the day.

The library is a great resource for people of all ages. I have school age children but enjoy going to the library and seeing senior citizens having access to a great resource just like our kids in school . I think it is just as important to support the library as it is our schools.

Thank you for your very hard work on this!

The library needs to store and maintain materials...meeting spaces and large spaces can be utilized through other community buildings, the schools.

I have heard that some would like to substantially expand the parking lot. I couldn't disagree more. Pavement is an eyesore and environmentally unfriendly. I always can find a parking space (unless it's bookfair night).

The statements in #6 are misleading and confusing - there should be more of an explanation of what you intend to do with these responses - don't keep trying to shove your agenda down the throat of cape citizens. We've voted - let it go

I would like a library that continues to focus on it's primary mission of reading and video material for all ages, children and teen programming.

Emphasize children, youth, computers. Build it for the 21st century—with a perspective of looking 10, 20, 30 years out. Don't spend a lot to house books; information is too fluid and dynamic now. Modest building; incredible resources.

I use the library to borrow books very rarely a movie. I do not think we need a high tech library (with a very high price tag) in our small town. The library renovation was put to vote and the citizens of CE defeated the renovation. I think u need to stop trying to push a new expensive library on the citizens. Figure out a way to keep the building in repair. That's all I think we need in our library. Also I was very against the idea of tearing down and discarding the historical annex portion of the library. Keep it. Figure out a way to make it work with a reasonable price tag. We do not need a coffee shop or any more community space there is plenty in town. If we need more space for anything in this town it's gym space in the winter to accommodate all teams getting to practice. I know not your problem ! The library already offers what I need

In an ideal world, yes, a library would be all those statements mentioned above. Because we limit development, our financial resources are limited, so we simply do not have the \$\$ to renovate or build a new bldg. Fortunately, we have plenty of meeting space @ Town Hall, the schools, the Grange, and Community Services. I do not want my taxes to increase for the library.

Most everything is available online. Soon there will be less physical books on all library shelves therefore there is no need for a new library. We simply need to update the existing library keeping this in mind.

I feel that the town hall may also be in need of a major renovation and I would like to see one building meet all off the needs or at least not duplicate space. The last proposed library building was not an attractive well thought out plan.

Hard to do these ranking, the library should do all of the above

Traditional libraries are obsolete. Keep funding to a minimum. Reallocate current space.

Please do not build a new library building. It extremely unnecessary and a waste of town money. We would much rather see our roads be repaired.

I was unable to rate the above statements according to my options.

QUESTION 7: Please add any additional questions or perspectives you might want the committee to hear or respond to!

Question 6 is confusing. Why didn't you just ask what you want to know instead of hiding the question in bizarrely couched gobbledegook? I am pretty sure the responses will just tell you that some sentences sounded happier than others and therefore were placed first, even though people may not agree with what you think their responses indicate. For example, the sentences that refer to welcoming and inspiring sound much nicer than the one that talks about being consistent with available resources, but if you asked people directly if they want to fund a second Community Center when we already have one, I suspect many would say no and that we should instead expand the first one if it is not big enough rather than mingling purposes and duplicating resources. However, as it was couched so obscurely, they may just put the wording that seems the most positive first. I've seen a couple of libraries close due to the availability of online learning and downloadable books and think that we should not put a huge amount of resources into a purpose that may ultimately be less important and should think carefully about what realistically we will need and want in the coming decades. Is it a bigger library or a bigger community center? These are not the same things, though we currently do need both a library and a community center.

all of the above are important and it is difficult to rank them.

Question 6 is difficult to rank--they are all so close.

I believe a new library would motivate younger and older alike to take advantage of all that it can offer. Smaller study areas for school students or adults to work on projects would be great, which are open to natural light. More evening time hours could accommodate more people as well. Good luck!

Do not want a tax payer funded library, Seniors are moving out of town

Close waste of money

With manerva I have access to just about anything. I like our library and think it would be great if we can conserve our library!

Get rid of all old books (and maybe even new ones too). Needs to 100% digital. Otherwise, we are just wasting money.

When will this all take place??

Its difficult in this age of technology for the library to stay up-to-date with everything. Maybe some of the areas should turn into more of a reading area with a coffee shop area available.

I prefer a MODEST updated/new building with more money spent on access to a virtual library. Access to WiFi.

TML swung for the fence and whiffed with the referendum, which won't make this effort any easier. IMO try a more modest proposal, a better explanation of need, and real retail politics instead of the "Field of Dreams" approach.

Our community already has a huge, wonderful, community center and school buildings. We do not need another community center or gathering place. We should use the facilities that we have for that and make the library a resource center for knowledge and lifelong learning.

I would like the library to have a welcoming atmosphere and an outstanding book and magazine collection, as well as offering enriching literacy and arts-based opportunities focused primarily on senior citizens and adults. I do not see it as a center for community gathering or technology training. My family are huge users of the library on a regular basis. I would like to see it renovated physically so that it is warm and safe and an enriched collection to appeal to many tastes.

I voted for a complete overhaul of the library, but that vote lost. I believe the current space is inadequate to our town's needs. I would like to see better community rooms; also, the idea of having a small theatre is a great one.

The Thomas Memorial Library must have the best staff in the state. I cannot tell you how often I access their wisdom.

Our family has felt the staff at the library could improve their social skills by being more friendly, enthusiastic and warm towards the people using the library.

multi disc movies or tv series should be able to be checked out for longer than 1wk from other libraries. that's simply not long enough for someone to watch the whole thing.

The library should focus on using the current resources and facility to provide access to learning; our community services building is a place for the community to gather.

Could community services and library programs join together as one and be housed in the new library - the heart of the community?

#6 -- How about "our library will be a good place to borrow books?" The statements listed in #6 go beyond the scope of what we need in a library. Scale down your scope and perhaps you can come up with a reasonable budget number.

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I think our town wants and needs a good library that meets the needs of the 21st century. I think there are concerns that we get good value for money spent. Not everyone in town is well off financially and don't want a excessively expensive library shoved down there throats. It is a challenging problems.... thanks for asking and best wishes.

I believe the library does need a major rehabilitation of the building, perhaps an addition. However I believe you should use as much of the historical structure as possible. Consider the Camden library.

This ranking from #6 is misleading and it isn't clear what you intend to do with the results of this. The town has voted that they do not want a massive overhaul of the current library (in excess of \$6 million). A maximum of \$500k-1 million would be plenty to provide a small bank of new computers, get the building repainted or resided in vinyl to minimize upkeep and possibly build a small expansion for a meeting area if needed.

A Library is just a building. It should be a place that all age groups should be welcome. As a lifelong resident I remember as a child going to the library and enjoying the experience. However, when I had children and began bringing them there we had several very bad experiences with the staff, to the point that one of our daughters left crying and refused to go back. We felt the Library had too much of a focus on the older residents and had lost the focus of including all resident including those with children. That was 8 years ago and we never stepped foot back in the library. My point is your staff is as important as whatever building you end up deciding on. And you lost a supporter of your project because of the poor staff. My wife and I have decided not to support your project as we feel the money is much better spent on other facilities and services that welcome our family in.

There's no space! It's so small! No space for tutoring and it's hard to find quiet. Your large space is also SO SMALL

Rebuild and maintain what you have

It is hard to answer the above because they sound similar to me. I would just like a nice, safe place to find books and other sources of information to enhance my experience and the experience of my family.

i would like updates of cost associated with work on the lib. new name

Consider ways to expand e-book lending capabilities.

Impossible to rank last question: those are all the essential qualities of a modern library!

i don't think we need to invest a tremendous amount in the building. utilize spaces at the schools and community services if better technology, facilities, space is needed.

This is a very biased survey. We do not need to invest money we do not have in a library. There is a shocking number of families in Cape Elizabeth who have to choose between paying their mortgage, utilities Cape taxes and putting food on the table. Town government should never put families in that position like the Cape government has. The Cape government is dividing this town and destroying the community.

With the ability to download books electronically and with the technology of digital what are the needs looking ahead to a huge renovation job or a new building? As a resident of cape elizabeth I really don't want to see millions of dollars put into a renovation job or new building if in 10 years traditional libraries are going to be almost extinct and/or downsizing. We have a community center, police department meeting room, three school buildings that could be used for community dialog and sharing of ideas, human interaction, intellectual stimulation and cultural enrichment for all ages, access through knowledge through diverse formats, and all the other statements that are listed above can be met through either the existing library or other buildings in Cape Elizabeth. I don't feel we need a new bldg or a multimillion dollar renovated space to meet these statement needs. Maybe we cohost a library with SoPo? Or streamline and downsize the TML while utilizing other loacations in our town.

I mentioned above the need for expanded operating hours; as a working parent, if I am going to enjoy the library with my family, the only opportunity to do so will be in the evenings during the week and weekends. I would encourage the committee to start with a project that is achievable and that can be added to over time - doing something on a small scale really well is better than trying to be all things to all people and not doing a very good job of it.

The entire definition of what a library is needs to be changed. I cannot see the benefit of simply fixing up the existing structure since it is not physically suitable for meeting our needs in the future. Traditional libraries filled with stacks of books are a thing of the past. We need to build a building for the future.

Would be nice to have shared, updated community space that can bring us into the future

I hope the Town will make the library a priority. It is long overdue.

We have the community services building nearby that can be used for events.

If number 6 was a list of mission statements I'd say that the shortest is the best, it's hard to share anything longer than the shortest. If they are vision statements, I like the order I ranked them.

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I like the fact that the library is near the schools, have enjoyed the children's programs when my children were young and have always found the librarians to be very helpful and knowledgeable
As a toen we have an opportunity to create another space where technology can be up-to-date, and in addition, the arts can be supported, from writing to literature to music to groups.
Library should ideally be morphed into a "virtual library." It should be more of a computer learning center. Really no need for books anymore. I would recommend current technology and support staff to help us use it. I would expect borrowing/renting kindles, or being given jumpdrives with reading material, etc... Only books I would expect are children's books. *** also, would consider merging with CEHS and CEMS libraries, since all are located so closely. Perhaps future is one big/shared virtual learning center.
The community center has a number of rooms that provide a community gathering place - I don't see a need for that to be duplicated.
I love our library but feel that a great deal needs to change from the space to the need of being more welcome/friendly.
I was at the recent meeting, and had trouble with this question #6 above. They all seem rather alike, so hard to prioritize.
I work in IT and have always been an early adopter of technology. However, the library remains a valuable resource for my family. Print is not dead!
Current staff have a strong orientation toward customer service current bldg limits the level of services to community And does not enhance the image of our community...
I appreciate being able to access inter-library loan, but it is disappointing that so much of what I would like to borrow is only available through inter-library loan. The on-site collection seems old and "high-brow" - would like to see more popular movies especially
The choices in question 6 were difficult to rank due to the wording. Hopefully, you are also collecting ideas on what residents want the library to be that aren't biased toward a particular vision of the library.
I have lived in CE since 1976, TML deserves an upgrade. And CE will be better for it. Thank you for putting in the time and work, we will all benefit.
I think this survey is slanted. I am not too keen on the library being a community gathering place, community center, focal point for community dialog, etc. I would really like the library to focus on providing a good and changing selection of books and other materials. The library should focus on books and other resources and let the rest of us figure out how to "strengthen our community".
I feel some are trying to force the library to be too much of a "community-gathering place" or "community center for human interaction". First and foremost a library should be a place where knowledge and resources to knowledge and access to intellectually stimulating material (fiction and non-fiction - tensile and electronic) should be made with as large a variety as possible and in as many media as reasonable (books on CD, e-books, etc). As a part of this access to computers and the internet are also very critical for doing research and completing school assignments.
-spending on the library should be considered and balanced within the context of other town spending needs
I am a teacher at the middle school in Cape. In the long term, it would be wonderful to create a closer relationship between teachers and library programming staff. Perhaps some joint efforts could help us to more greatly inspire teens to read.
Very difficult to answer to question 6. Many of the statements are very similar. To say the library isn't any of these would be difficult. I was expecting to see a question about the proposed changes and the ideal size for our library. Should it be expanded 25%, 50%, not at all. Although, looking at question 1, I can see if large meeting rooms ranks near the bottom, that could be used as a determinant for the library footprint.
If possible, I would rank ALL the statements in #6 with a ranking of #1.
Please allow us to grade each statement independently of each other. I'd like a scale of 1-5 available on all, not just restricted to what is left once I grade other options. Hope this makes sense.
would have loved to be involved in this process as a community member and an Architect. Oh, well.
The library has the ability to be the center of town. It could hold larger meeting, even rent out space. It is a valuable recourse that should not be lost. It would be great if it was connected to the schools in some way.
Haven't we been through all this? I took an almost identical survey approximately 2 years ago. We need a modern library with spaces for people of all ages. The only reason children's programs is lower on my list now is because my children are grown - when they were small we went to the library weekly for such programs. The town needs to invest in the library now, while borrowing costs are low, rather than wait until the building collapses. Currently the facility is almost embarrassing for a community that prides itself on its place in Maine.

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Please stop trying to make the library be a meeting space. We have more meeting space in town than we need already. Please don't duplicate services already offered by other community groups and spaces. Learn from the recent referendum that residents know how to use neighboring facilities.

If you want people to build a library, you have to provide them with a vision for why Cape will be a better place to live after it's done, not just a list of problems with the existing library.