

Proposed Dighton Public Library Solution



Dighton Public Library Mission



Be the place Dighton turns to for the discovery of ideas, the joy of reading and the power of information.

Improve the quality of life for all citizens, from infant to elder, by providing open access to resources that enhance and contribute to individual knowledge, skills, enlightenment, and enjoyment for the 21st Century.



Public Library Vision Summary



Achieve and maintain excellence in providing public library services.

Embody a robust community resource for information exchange

Preserve current data on community organizations, and local government issues

Provide collections and programs that fulfill the interests and needs of the community

Offer an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Be a technological resource for the cost-effective offerings and digital programs

Deliver efficient, knowledgeable, professional services in a friendly manner.

Be an authority on local history

Apply best practices of preservation of Dighton's local artifacts.

Public Library Programming Goals



- Research and Reading Space
- Teen Section / Space
- Children's Sections / Space
- Programming / Craft Space
- Meeting Room(s)
- Community Space
- Staff & Operations Space
- Outdoor Programming



Evolution of the Dighton Public Library



Dighton Library opened in 1910 as a Carnegie Library on Main St

100+ years of operations as a valuable community resource

Multiple efforts for expansion or enhancements

Significant safety challenges at 395 Main St building

Resourcefully relocated to temporary split operations at Town Hall site

... all the while remaining *The Little Library That Could!*

Proposed Public Library Solution



Recent Activities

- **November 2021 Town commissions site alternative evaluation**
 - Multiple sites reviewed
 - Certified Appraisals performed
- **March 30, 2022 BOS and Library Trustees Meeting on 207 Main Street Site**
 - BOS vote to move into process to possibly purchase site
 - Library Trustees endorsement of the site as a possible future Library
- **May 18, 2022 BOS Meeting**
 - BOS approves Purchase & Sales Agreement with Father's House Family Church
 - Discussion of acquisition and capital improvements
- **May 25, 2022 BOS Meeting**
 - Presentation of proposed New Library location
- **May 31, 2022 BOS Town Meeting Information Forum**
 - Proposed New Library location presentation and Q&A discussion
- **June 6, 2022 Annual Town Meeting**
 - Vote to acquire 207 Main Street with ARPA Funds (not tax rate funds)
 - Vote to fund Capital Improvements for Phase 1

Proposed Public Library Solution



207 Main Street

- 9,014 SF total on two floors
 - Main level is 4,500 SF (old Dighton Library was only 3,000 SF)
 - Potential future programming on lower level
- Segregated into separate rooms / spaces
- ADA compliant elements
- Compliant Fire Alarm
- 34,848 SF ($\frac{3}{4}$ acre) site
- 60+ parking spaces
- Not in 100 Year Flood Zone
- On MHC Historic Inventory



Proposed Public Library Solution



Massachusetts Historic Commission Inventory

- Smith Memorial Hall
- Built in 1889
- Alfred Smith & Anna Marie Talbot (Daughter of Dighton)
 - Alfred Smith was a Newport Real Estate Tycoon
- Designed & Built by John Dixon Johnston
- 133 years of assembly

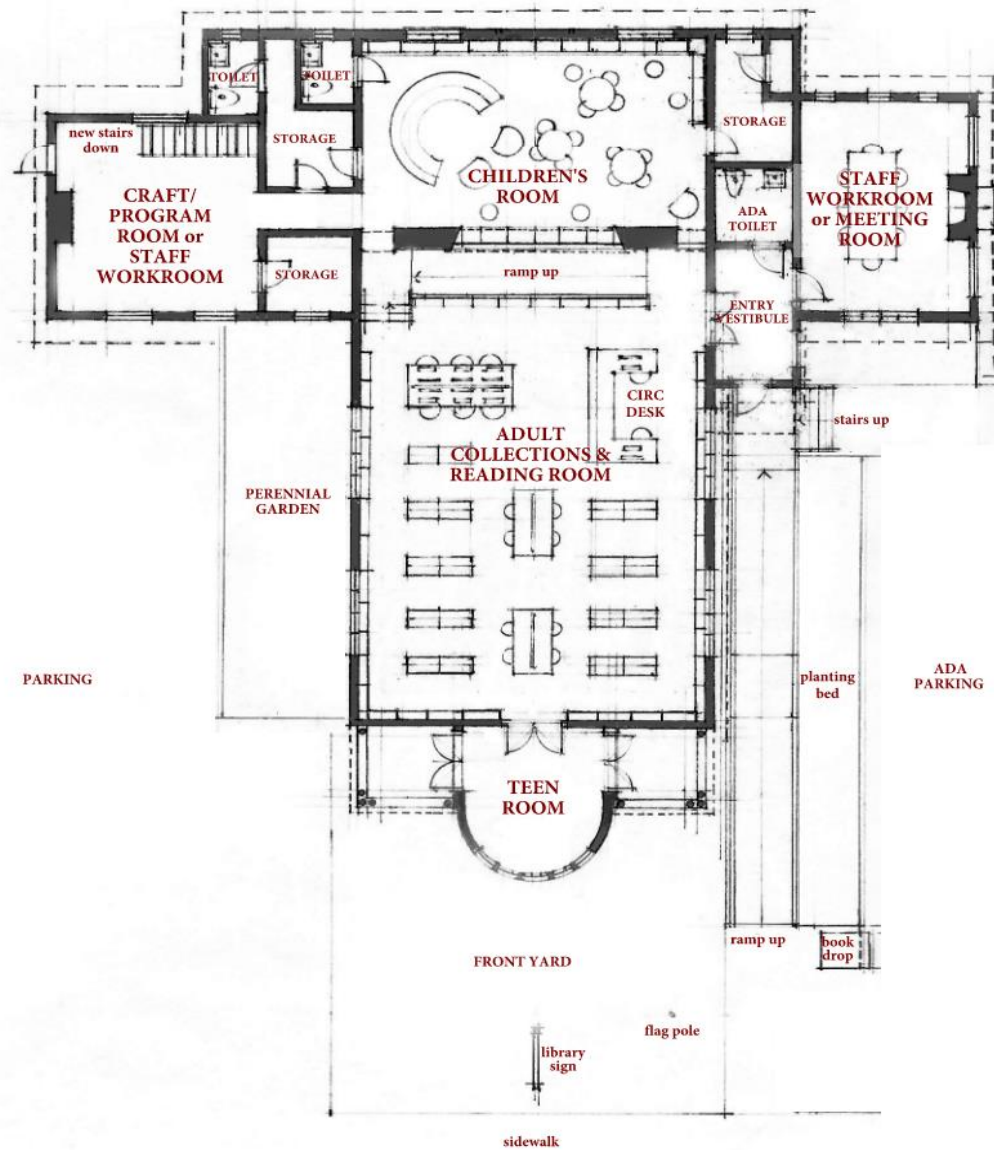


Smith Memorial Hall, as depicted in *Dighton Bi-Centennial Celebration*. Taunton, Mass.: C.A. Hack & Son. 1912. Note:









Public Library Solution Funding Strategy



Phase 1 = Acquisition & Initial Capital Improvements on the June 6, 2022 ATM

\$790,000 of ARPA Funds (not tax rate funds) to purchase property

- Town Meeting approval for acquisition of property, not funding

\$150,000 from Capital Stabilization Fund as proposed in Article 31

- Town Meeting approval necessary for appropriation
- To be used for exterior weatherization, improved accessibility entrances, and parking lot and grounds improvements

Town is actively working to also identify additional funding sources

Public Library Solution Funding Strategy



Future Phases / Articles

Phase 2 = Possible Fit-out & Lower Level Accessibility

- Scope will be developed as existing library resources are maximized
- Community Preservation and Green Community Funds to be targeted
- State & Federal funding to be pursued

Public Library Solution at Town Meeting



Article 30:

Authorization to acquire the 207 Main Street property

- No ATM funding approvals necessary for ARPA

Article 31:

Authorization to expend up to \$150,000 for capital improvements on the property at 207 Main Street

Questions & Discussion

