

# The Wayland Free Public Library – Expansion Program

The Wayland Free Public Library is the first tax-supported library in Massachusetts, and second in our nation. In continuous use on its present site since 1900, our town library has served Wayland well. Over the last twenty years, use of the library by Wayland's ever-growing population has mushroomed, and its role in our community has grown to encompass far more than mere book lending. Today, our library needs more room.

## Community-Wide Planning

In April 2001, the Library Trustees formed a Library Planning Committee of Trustees and townspeople for the purpose of assessing our community's vision for the future of our library. After exhaustive community-wide surveys and focus groups, a [Final Report of the Planning Committee](#) was completed and made public in April 2002.

With a clear picture of the library services and facilities desired by Wayland's citizens, The Board of Trustees, at Town Meeting in 2002, requested \$40,000 to plan for library renovation and expansion. The town overwhelmingly voted to grant this planning money. The Wayland Public Library staff and Trustees proceeded to establish in September 2003 a Feasibility Study Committee of six townspeople, the Trustees, and the Library Director (ex-officio).

## Feasibility Study Committee – Progress to date

Over the past months, the Feasibility Study Committee has:

- Visited 13 libraries in nearby Massachusetts communities
- Met with town officials periodically to update them on the project
- Issued an extensive Request For Proposals outlining our goals
- Received proposals from 17 professional architectural planning firms
- Narrowed our selection to four firms

We hope to issue a contract by June, 2004.

## The goals of the expansion program are to:

1. meet the current and future library needs of the town of Wayland.
2. enhance the town center
3. provide a central focus for the community
4. be a civic monument which reflects the aspirations of Wayland's citizens

## Next Steps –

The four architectural firms we interviewed as finalists have indicated that it **may** be possible to satisfy the Library Building Program requirements, remain at 5 Concord Road, and preserve the historic library building. **However, to accomplish this, we must:**

1. work collaboratively with various town boards and commissions
2. purchase a portion of abutter's property
3. hook up to the town wastewater management system

May 10, 2004