

Concerned Citizens of Wilbraham Newsletter

January 2005

Concerned Citizens of Wilbraham Library Expansion Position

This letter is to inform you, our members and the public in general that the Board of Directors of Concerned Citizens of Wilbraham have unanimously decided not to support Article 3 of the Special Town meeting agenda. This Article pertains to a request of the Library Board to make application to the State for a grant in aid for construction and renovation of the Wilbraham Town Library.

Our considered opinion is that this project is not consistent with living within our means. With the long list of proposed projects for our town, several of which are not optional, the additional tax burden that the library project brings is not acceptable. We will need that money elsewhere.

Saying no to the library project is not easy. However, most of our members feel that the project is far too ambitious for a town of 14,000, expected to grow to a town of 15,000 in 20 years. The new library would have the same square footage as 2 ½ times the size of the Town Hall or looking at it another way, 2/3 rds the size of a football field. It would appear that the proposed library would be a social/computer center and a library. Several of our members have also questioned the wisdom of destroying a perfectly good building (The Brooks Room) only to rebuild it. A very expensive way of doing things. Finally, the modernistic look to the addition is inconsistent with the look and feel of our community.

In conclusion we respectfully recommend that you vote no on the proposed library expansion plan on January 11, 2005, 7:00 pm at Minnechaug Regional High School auditorium.

Living within our means

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