

Article 29 & Article 30

EXPLANATION

The Ricker Memorial Library and Community room was built in 1963 with monies donated by Jane Ricker. Since that time, it has served the Poland community well. It is an inviting building; the staff is knowledgeable and friendly. It has and continues to be a great resource for our community.

We, the Trustees and library staff, have felt for a number of years that the facility could be improved, particularly the children's area. Better site lines are needed to monitor activities in that area as well as the computer tables. Additionally, low tables and chairs would increase the functionality and encourage child participation in study, coloring, puzzles, or other pastimes. This play/work area would keep children busy in a positive atmosphere while parents browse the bookshelves. Adult chairs would encourage family co-reading.

In 2019 we conducted a survey to determine if residents would be in favor of an expansion, renovation, or nothing at all. 70% of the polled people were in favor of an expansion. We had some concept drawings drawn up at that time of potential expansion designs, which are on display at the library. Some ideas that we have focused on in the expansion concept are to add square footage, improve the children's area, and replace tall bookshelves with shorter ones to facilitate browsing.

Adding square footage to the basement would allow for a dedicated area for our Children's Story Time, Teens and Tweens and other various clubs. The basement also plays host to many other functions so we would incorporate a better functioning kitchen with more space and a restroom in the basement.

We bring to the Town two articles to move forward with an expansion to the library. Article 29 asks voters to approve using money from the Stone Trust to continue with engineering of the expansion or to be used in a way consistent with how it was dedicated.

Article 30 allows for the Town to take out a bond, up to \$850,000, to build the expansion once engineering designs are done and approved by the Planning Board. The short-term repayment option of 10 years allows this debt payment to have minimal interest accrual.