

To: Middlebury Selectboard
From: John Freidin, chair, Library Building Committee
Date: August 22, 2017

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

Enclosed please find the final report from Gossens Bachman Architecture & Planning (gbA) of its proposed design for the renovation of Ilsley Public Library. The report is available digitally at <http://tinyurl.com/ya8dwvq7>

After studying the needs of Ilsley, listening to local citizens, and thoroughly assessing a variety of potential solutions over the past three years, your Library Building Committee unanimously agreed that the enclosed proposal is by far the best, and perhaps the only wise and practical way to proceed.

The committee realizes that its proposal is a large one. The extent of this project is driven by the needs of the children and young adults in our community. There is no way to meet those needs within the existing building. The basement level, where the children's library is currently located, is too small, unhealthy, dark, and obstructed by posts to provide suitable space for Ilsley's programs for preschoolers through high schoolers. The second floor of the 1988 addition is also inadequate. It is broken into narrow segments by steel trusses – largely hidden within the adult stacks -- that support the ceiling of the Community Room and the floors of the levels above it. The second and third floors are also too small – by approximately 3000 square feet each – to accommodate the children's and young adult programs.

Even if Ilsley could accommodate children's and young adult programs within the existing building -- which it clearly cannot – the library would still need to replace the building's heating and cooling systems, install a mechanical air circulation system, relocate and install a new elevator, build additional bathrooms, seal the foundation of the original building against water leakage, create a new at-grade entrance, improve computing facilities, and create 6000 square feet of additional space.

The Ilsley Trustees, Library Building Committee, and gbA will hold another public meeting on September 13 to report their conclusions and hear further suggestions from the public.

It has been a delight and honor to serve as chair of the Library Building Committee. All of its members have served with distinction.