

# Trustees evaluate rearranging library

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study space, a space where they can play games and where to set up computers."

To help assess its options, Gough said, the trustees have enlisted the help of Roger Smith, who was the architect who designed the library.

Smith met with the trustees in November and suggested possible changes such as moving book stacks to different floors and reducing the number of books kept by the library.

He also suggested the board consider changes in how existing rooms are used, the addition of a conference/study room and the addition of different furniture for a different feel.

The board then asked Smith to provide building floor plans, a survey and a 3D model.

Trustee Joanne Kesten said Smith's work would cost the library about \$10,000.

At the board's Feb. 15 meeting, Smith said the kinds of changes being considered by the library board would cost between \$650,000 and \$1.2 million, Kesten said.

Gough said the meeting with Smith was only an effort by the board to assess its options.

Kesten said before moving ahead the board should consider the financial impact on the library.

"How would the library pay for it," Kesten asked. "We need to consider the proposal with some conscience and fiscal responsibility."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MANHASSET PUBLIC LIBRARY

The 3-story building with one underground level, Manhasset Public Library.

At the March 30 board meeting, Kesten and Trustee Donald O'Brien engaged in a back-and-forth about how much of the board's conversation with Smith should be included in the board's February minutes.

Kesten said she wanted the minutes to be as detailed as possible so that residents have an idea of the scope of discussion about the project.

"I mean, how much are we talking about," O'Brien asked.

"How much is going to be included in the minutes."

Kesten said she had emailed the board in late February, calling for the minutes to reflect the nature of the board's conversation with Smith.

"You can go ahead and vote on the minutes but I'm not going to," Kesten said.

O'Brien later said he didn't have an issue with the minutes or the details.

"It's too early to estimate the

amount that it would cost and the minutes don't reflect the accuracy of what we talked about," O'Brien said.

Kesten said she was concerned with the costs of the project.

"We're living in a time of tax cap and we're still paying off the bonds," Kesten said. "What does the community see as necessary that is beneficial to the community?"

Kesten said she presented the

idea of some sort of community involvement to get constituents behind the idea.

"A lot of people perceive the library to be brand new," she said. "I don't know that we've looked at this enough because we have a fiduciary responsibility to our residents. I'm concerned about the perception of the spending of the money."

Kesten said she wants the board to go about the project in the right way and ensure it coincides with the library's mission.

"We don't want residents to think we all just sat here and said nothing to Smith, when in fact we challenged him and asked him all these questions," Kesten said during the March 30 board meeting. "Just because he designed the building doesn't make him the de facto person to do this renovation."

She said she also wants the request for proposal schematics that Smith creates to be owned by the library in case the project was awarded to someone else.

"I will approve the work if it doesn't tie us to Roger Smith," Kesten said.

She also said she wants the board to consider how "re-purposing" space meshes with the library's mission and the constituents it serves.

"If the driving force of the library is free space, then we're nothing more than a YMCA," she said.

Efforts to reach trustees William McLean and Robert Carrozzo as well as Smith were unavailing.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Town to host first S.T.O.P. program of 2016

Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judi Bosworth announced last week the first enhanced Stop Throwing Out Pollutants (S.T.O.P.) program of 2016 will be held Saturday, April 9 at Michael J. Tully Park in New Hyde Park from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The S.T.O.P. program offers Town of North Hempstead residents the opportunity to dispose of dangerous and chemical waste that is too dangerous to dispose of with routine curbside pickups. Residents can return items such as aerosols, household chemicals, pesticides, disinfectants, fertilizers, bulbs, thermostats, rechargeable and lithium batteries, TV's and computers.

Latex and water-based paints, once dried out (usually 24-36 hours after the lid is removed) can be placed in a trash bag and thrown out with your regular household garbage.

Latex and water-based paints will not be accepted at the S.T.O.P. collection site.

Oil-based paints, on the other hand, are considered hazardous, and will be accepted at any S.T.O.P. Collection Day program.

Residents may also bring their sensitive documents to the S.T.O.P. event for proper shredding and destruction to prevent identity theft. Any documents brought will be shredded on site by a document shredding company and then transported to a pulping mill for recycling.

There is a limit of 6 "Bankers Box" sized boxes or bags of paper per car, per event. Once the documents are shredded, they will be placed into containers and sent directly to pulping mills. Every 2,000 pounds of paper the Town recycles equates to seventeen trees saved.

The Town of North Hempstead S.T.O.P. program will be continuing its partnership with the Nassau County Police Department in its drug take back program, which was the first program of its kind to be offered in Nassau County.

Residents who need to dispose of unused prescription or over-the-counter drugs may bring those pharmaceuticals with them to the program for destruction. Police sources report that half of all teens who abuse prescription painkiller do so with drugs they found in their house.

This program will help to keep North Hempstead families safer from drug abuse issues, and keep our waters clean. In addition to protecting our environment by diverting unwanted drugs from landfills and our drinking water, the program prevents dangerous pharmaceuticals from getting into the wrong hands.

The April 9 S.T.O.P. event will also have a clothing donation area thanks to North Hempstead's partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Representatives of Big Brothers Big Sisters will be collecting gently used and working clothes, stuffed animals, electronics, toys, sporting equipment, shoes, books, small area rugs, bikes, scooters,

luggage, picture frames, table lamps, bolts of fabric, silverware, glassware, dishes, and cosmetics. Each resident will receive a receipt for their donation for income tax purposes.

"I am proud that our Town is committed to continuing to offer a convenient and environmentally responsible way to dispose of dangerous and harmful waste such as chemicals, electronics, sensitive documents and pharmaceuticals," said Supervisor Bosworth about the S.T.O.P. program.

In addition to the April 9 event, Michael J. Tully Park will host a S.T.O.P. event on September 17. North Hempstead Beach Park will host S.T.O.P. events on May 22 and Oct. 30. Westbury High School will host a S.T.O.P. event on June 26. All collection events begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

For more information on the S.T.O.P. program, please call 311 or (516) 869-6311.