

Library Retains Local Architect Rick Wiedersum to Investigate Facilities Options

“In continuing with our ongoing efforts to address space, facility, and parking issues at the current Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library building, the Board of Trustees has retained the services of a new architect, Richard Wiedersum, who is reviewing all issues and problems at the library. He is in the process of developing a comprehensive list with options to address some of the challenges we are facing,” said Library Director Kerri Rosalia. Weidersum has worked on major building projects with a roster of local educational clients including Longwood, Eastport–South Manor, Riverhead, Comeswogue, and our own William Floyd School District, as well as Suffolk County Community College.

One option that is being revisited is the old bowling alley property just north of the library. This property has been for sale for some time. The property originally listed for millions of dollars but has not sold. A special property auction has now been scheduled for or about July 24, 2018.

The Library Board recently ordered a commercial appraisal of this property so that they may consider what use it could serve and if they are interested in bidding on it. By law, the library would only be able to pay 10 percent more than the appraised value.

The Library Board also must take into consideration the cost of knocking down the old bowling alley building. The option to look at numerous locations for possible library annexes has been discussed with the board, library administration, and the new architect.

The Library Board is in the process of forming a new community task-force to assist in reviewing the architect’s suggestions and recommendations. The board members are also planning to conduct a community-wide survey to get more input from local residents regarding their needs and concerns. The survey information obtained will play a major role in helping guide the board in what the taxpayers want and can afford. It also gives everyone the opportunity to make sure the taxpayers are receiving correct and accurate information about the library and future plans for expansion or renovation. The survey will allow the majority of taxpayers who are unable to volunteer or attend library board meetings to have a voice in the process.

“It is the board’s goal to present as much accurate information to the general public and taxpayers as possible so they may continue to be part of the library’s improvements, progress, and future,” said Library Board President Joseph Maiorana.

If you need further information about these issues or are interested in getting involved in the new committee, please contact Library Director, Kerri Rosalia at krosalia@communitylibrary.org, or 631-399-1511 x200.

