

Why does Yarmouth need a new library?

For almost 50 years, contracted, professional feasibility studies on the existing town-funded library facilities have reported them to be grossly lacking in usable space, overall size, up-to-date building systems, ADA-accessibility, adequate staff work space, as well as appropriately sized public meeting and program space. The current pandemic has highlighted the inadequacies of existing HVAC/air filtration systems and the need for outdoor program space. According to NOAA maps, both South Yarmouth and West Yarmouth library locations are in designated SLOSH (Sea, Lake, and Overland Surge from Hurricanes) inundation zones, thereby impacting their ability to operate following a major weather event. Standards for projecting the size library building to efficiently serve the 21st century needs of a community with the service population (residents plus visitors) equal to that of Yarmouth recommend ~26,000 SF of usable space. At present, South Yarmouth Library and West Yarmouth Library together equal ~13,000 SF of usable space.