

## Library Article Town Meeting Survey Results

At the May 5, 2016 Hadley Town Meeting, the Trustees of the Goodwin Memorial Library presented these two articles:

### ***Town Meeting Warrant Article 17***

*To see if the Town will vote to authorize the use of the site of the current Hooker School located on the westerly half of the existing 2.763 acre lot owned by the Town of Hadley (Hampshire County Registry of Deeds Book 766 Page 411) for demolition of the existing structure and construction of a proposed new library building, contingent upon the receipt of a Library Construction Grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and appropriation of local funding of the balance of project costs, or take any action relative thereto.*

### ***Town Meeting Warrant Article 18***

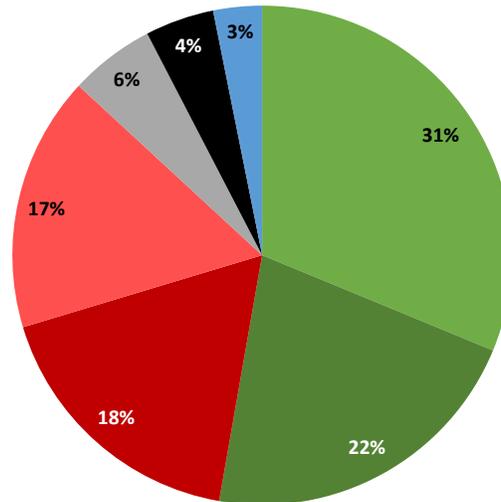
*To see if the Town will vote to accept the preliminary design for the Hadley Library as presented by architects, Johnson Roberts Associates and approved by the Goodwin Memorial Library Board of Trustees, and further vote to authorize the Trustees of the Hadley Library to apply for any state funds which might be available to defray all or part of the cost of the design, construction and equipping of the library project and to authorize the Library Building Committee and/or Select Board and/or Library Trustees to accept and expend any such funds when received without further appropriation, or take any action in relation thereto.*

Article 17 was defeated 206 to 139 (with 13 abstaining). Since Article 17 was defeated, Article 18 was passed over (by design). Because there was little discussion on Town Meeting floor, the Library Trustees were unclear about exactly why Article 17 was defeated. In order to better understand these reasons and determine the best next steps for the Library and for Hadley, the Library Trustees launched a brief on-line two-question survey.

The survey was launched on May 10, 2016 and closed at midnight on May 31, 2016. It was advertised to Hadley residents through newspaper articles in both the *Springfield Republican* and the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, sent through the Town email blast, posted on the Hadley Town website, the Goodwin Memorial Library website, and on the Planning and Design website. In addition, it was shared extensively through social media (i.e. on the Friends of Hadley Schools and Goodwin Memorial Library Facebook pages as well as on personal Facebook pages), through the Library Friends list, and through personal email lists. The Trustees also obtained the list of those attending Town Meeting and sent out postcards to each attendee, thanking them for coming to Town Meeting and inviting them to take the survey.

In the three weeks the survey was open, 381 people responded to at least one question on the survey. There were also 121 people who chose to leave open-ended comments, providing additional valuable information to the Trustees and to the Town.

**"What statement best describes your vote on the library article at Town Meeting?"**



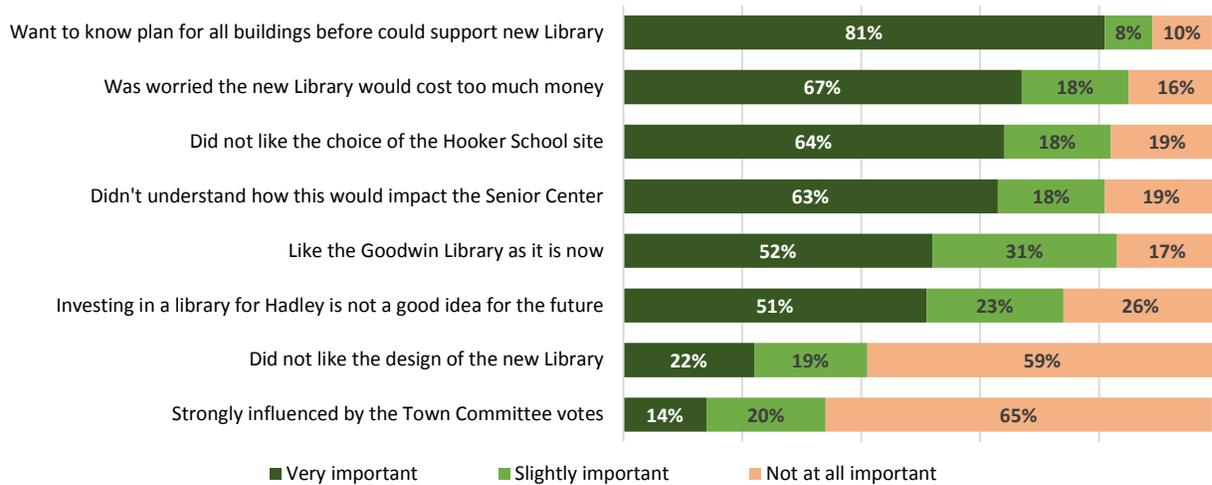
- I did not attend Town Meeting but if I had, I would have voted Yes on the Library article
- I attended Town Meeting and voted Yes on the Library article
- I attended Town Meeting and voted No on the Library article
- I did not attend Town Meeting but if I had, I would have voted No on the Library article
- I am uncertain or unaware of the Library article
- I attended Town Meeting but did not vote on the Library article or abstained
- I am not registered to vote in Hadley and could not vote at Town Meeting

Among the 381 people who responded to the survey, the majority can be classified as “yes” voters. They either attended Town Meeting and voted “yes” on Article 17 (22%) or would have voted “yes” if they had attended (31%). Eighteen percent of the respondents attended Town Meeting and voted “no” on Article 17 and another 17% would have voted “no” if they had attended.

Those who indicated that they voted “yes,” would have voted “yes,” and those who were uncertain/unaware of Article 17 or who attended Town Meeting but who did not vote/abstained were then asked if they would like to receive updates about the process as it moves forward. Sixty-three percent of those respondents checked “yes” (151 people) and 115 left contact information. The Library Planning and Design Committee shared basic final results with these 115 people on June 1, 2016 as a thank you for participating and leaving contact information.

Respondents who either voted or would have voted “no” were then asked what influenced their decision. Among the 108 people who responded to this question, 81% indicated that the need to know the plan for all Hadley buildings before they could support a new library was “very important.” The next most “very important” influences were worries that “the new library would cost too much money,” (67%), the choice of the Hooker School site (64%), and those who “didn’t understand how this would impact the Senior Center” (63%). The questions about both the Hooker School site and the Senior Center are closely related and 82% of the 108 responding checked “very important” for at least one of these two influences. More than half of all respondents indicated that the design of the new library (59%) or the votes by other Town Committees (65%) were not important influences on their decision.

**"How important were the following in your decision to vote 'No' on the library article?"**



All respondents were given the opportunity to leave additional comments for the Library Trustees; 121 people took that opportunity to do so, the majority of whom were people who either voted or would have voted “no” on Article 17 (62 people, representing 51% of those who commented). Fifty-three people classified as “yes” voters provided comments as did 5 who were uncertain/unaware or who abstained/didn’t vote.

Given the particular focus on the Hooker site and/or impact on the Seniors, the open-ended comments were classified as to whether or not they mentioned the site and/or the Seniors. Of the comments provided by “no” voters, 48% mentioned one or both of these things. Among those by “yes” voters, 34% mentioned the site and/or the Seniors as did 83% of the comments by those uncertain//unaware/abstaining.

All of the comments appear below, verbatim, as they speak strongly for themselves with no additional interpretation necessary. Only personally identifying information was removed to maintain anonymity.

**Comments by “no” voters:**

- A new library is a nice to have. With our current budget we need to focus on what is needed in our town. A new library is a want not a need.
- A new municipal building which could house town offices, the senior center, and the library makes more sense. It would prevent overlap of services for seniors, provide a town-wide gathering room instead of separate rooms in separate buildings, and allow coordination of efforts such as children's programs run in conjunction with Park and Rec. Further, the library salaries are already significantly high. I feel you are over-staffed.
- Bad location. I actually am fond of Hooker School.
- Building a new Library in Hadley is a huge waste of money that I would never support. We are in a new era and with all of the technology now, a library is not needed. I can do anything from this small device in my hand that I can do in a multimillion dollar library. Not to mention we have major libraries in our area that are available to Hadley residents.
- Don't waste my tax money to put up a new library when we need more important things for this town.
- Don't waste tax payers money on this project when we have more important issues that has to look at.

- Everyone is using online methods of learning
- Hadley does not have the money for a new library, and money will be needed in the near future to fund more important projects like new water mains, sewer lines and improvements to Hopkins Academy. This is a waste of time on the part of the Library Trustees and will NEVER pass a prop 2 1/2 override. To think otherwise is delusional on your part, sadly. Please focus on what we can afford.
- Hadley has more important issues to think about than a library. Police and fire buildings. Library should be on the BOTTOM of the list.
- I agree with the sentiment regarding "want" vs. "need" There are other things this town needs and other buildings that need much more attention and resources.
- I am in favor of a new library, but have concerns about the impact of new construction on the sense of community and history. I have been in many new libraries and there is a lack of "soul" and the welcoming atmosphere.
- I came to the town meeting, thinking I would vote yes. While I rarely use the library, I was interested in the Community Space that would be created with a new library. I was thinking that there would be interesting events that would draw me there, or, that I would volunteer to plan an event (for example, a Ukelele group, or, a presentation about "why are we sick, and what can be done" about the rise in chronic illness in our country (I am interested in issues related to health & nutrition, and the arts, and spirituality without religious dogma). I was worried about the senior center; where would they go? Is the building really useless as it is? What about the church that sits next door to the Goodwin Library, apparently empty - could that be used? At town meeting, I became aware that there were existing financial concerns in Hadley, such as health insurance costs and pensions that have to be paid...people are living longer and getting sicker....so I began to feel like I did not know enough to give an informed "yes" vote. When XXX spoke at town meeting, her points seemed really valid to me. I had not thought about that point of view, about the costs and about how there are so many libraries around. Like her, I've been using the others, such as the Jones Library, although most of the time it is a meeting in their community room. Honestly, I really do love libraries, I'm just at a stage in life where I'm busy with my business and sending my daughter to college. (Although I must add, that my daughter volunteers at the Goodwin Library a lot, and she loves it). I'm almost 57, and I anticipate wanting to slow down and use the library more..and the Senior Center, too. If I can learn more about the town financial situation and how it can be improved, and what will happen to the senior center, first, I am going to be thrilled to vote for this. I think the plans are great and it looks beautiful. Keep me posted, I care! If you want to know who I am, I am happy to identify myself. I am XXX, and I live at XXX here in Hadley. I've lived in Hadley for about 25 years, and I am a direct descendent of one of the original settlers here, over 350 years ago. I am happy to be involved in Hadley; I care about my town. Thank you for asking for my opinion on this important subject. Good Luck!
- I do support a new library for Hadley. However I do not believe it is not a priority building at this time. The first new building needed is a new fire station in N. Hadley. Next in line is a new senior center. I was also not in favor of an open ended authorization without some idea of the cost. All you people talked about was percentages and no ball park total cost, I e how many Million \$. 5 or 8 or 10 or 20.
- I feel that no future capital investment in the town be made until we have a prioritized list of major financial obligations for a ten-year period. This town has been functioning in a "fire-fighting" mode for too long. Oh, we can get a grant for that, lets do it. Let's take a hard look at what we need and when we need it and then try to fit the top priorities into the budget. We can't have it all!!
- I feel that the Senior Center should be considered first in conjunction with a new library.
- I feel the library we have now is just fine but I also feel if you are building a new one it should incorporate the senior center seeing you just wanted to tear it down for your own agenda. If you incorporate that it would save the town a lot of money and people might actually vote for it.
- I felt badly about taking down Hooker School while still not having a purpose for the current Library building. I have been thing about it almost continuously since and have changed my mind. I so believe in all the work that the library committee has done; I believe we need a better, bigger and more efficient space. I no longer think Hooker school needs to be saved, but I do think we need to have some ideas for the use of the beautiful Goodwin Library building. Yes, I know there is time, but we all know how SLOWLY things move in Hadley.

- I like the idea of a new library, but I would want a clear plan for preserving and using the current Goodwin Library for another purpose before I could support constructing a new library. The North Hadley Hall is an object lesson in what could happen if there is not a clear \*plan\* (not just an idea) for repurposing the Goodwin Library before a new library is built.
- I really wanted to vote yes however with the tune being in debt and it only being used by the library what I believe we need is a community center that the library is senior center share a space in therapy meeting rooms available for the community. I'm not opposed to using the hooker site but I am opposed to not having a plan for the senior center at the same time. I loved the design and I know everyone put in such hard work. A community center where they would be room for parking rack senior center programs and a library is a more needed building than just a new library. I would help pay for that and support that.
- I suggest tearing down the old Russell School and building a new library there.
- I support an addition to the current library if it is deemed necessary but not a completely new building. I believe the suggested building was too large for this town, I did not like the plan for so much parking and think it was too large of a building to not include a senior Center and parks and rec. I am also unclear on what the upper levels of the current library contain, could they be utilized in any way.
- I think the current library should be used for children's programs and should become a children's library. For adults, the town should look into joining with the Amherst (or Northampton) library, contributing budget to them. I am concerned that the town does not have the resources to maintain a full library comparable to the one in Amherst. I am concerned that the world is becoming more digital, and investment in a brick and mortar library right now might not be money well spent.
- I think the fact that we have a library and have access to many libraries in the surrounding areas allows town folk to make use of these facilities at no extra cost to the town. I think there are more pressing "needs" for funds better spent at this time and in the immediate future. I applaud the trustees for their dedication and hard work and passion for this project and feel bad that it had somewhat of an abrupt ending at this time, but I don't really have any suggestions on how best to proceed. Thank you for all you have done.
- I think the space in the current library is not being utilized to its best advantage. Hadley does not need to compete with Noho or Amherst.
- I think there are more pressing needs the town and taxpayers need to address first, we have other buildings that need to be dealt with. I also wanted a clearer vision of how this impacted the senior center, and what that would mean to them moving forward.
- I think there are other departments in town that the taxpayers should fund first.
- I voted NO because I do not trust the town to find an appropriate location for the senior center once the legal right to demolish the Hooker school was granted via art. 17. Of course we need a new library, I don't care what it costs. BUT, a homeless senior center is unacceptable.
- I voted no in part because there is almost no discussion at all in this conversation to what is planned for the current library building, in which tens of thousands of dollars -- even hundreds? -- have been invested since the advent of the CPA. Given that this building was donated to be a library, presumably the Library Trustees would remain responsible for its care, but there is no discussion of what the plan is for its future use, which implies that the Trustees plan to, or just will as demands on their time and attention rise, abandon this building (it's not even pictured here, on a webpage that is ostensibly that of the "Goodwin Memorial Library." Not a good sign). I see that the FAQ sheet says "The townspeople will ultimately decide what happens to the building," but that reads to me like the Trustees washing their hands of the issue, when I believe, since the building was donated to be a purpose-built library, might not be as simple as that line suggests, and even if legally possible, just doesn't sit well. Which relates to another key factor in my vote, which was how this proposal seems entirely unrelated to any other planning. There seems to be no coordination at all across town departments--each department is just pursuing its own aims as if it is a free agent. So, demolishing all or part of the Hooker school (and I could support demolishing the 1950s addition, but not the original building; surely a creative design could make use of the older building for the town offices that currently occupy the addition) would displace other town groups. In addition to the senior center, other town committees use those spaces, but there has been, so far as I know, no coordinated discussion about their needs or how those activities will be accommodated. It just doesn't seem like there is thoughtful, town-wide planning behind this: instead, it feels like the specific requirements of this state funding opportunity are driving the timing and shape of the

proposal, and have become the tail wagging the dog of local decision-making. I support library activities, but not at the expense of other town offices or assets, and would want to see this significant investment be firmly embedded in a larger 10-, 20- or 30-year plan for the town's infrastructure that puts the library (both the existing structure and any new construction) thoroughly within the full context of town's space and use needs going forward.

- I was very disappointed in how this was presented on Town Meeting floor, or really how it wasn't presented at all. This is a big change for the Town of Hadley and as any resident of this town knows, change needs to come slowly for us. This needed a lot of fanfare, this needed a lot of support, this needed a good presentation and it had none of those things. Proposing to knock down Hooker School, arguably a falling down building yet still a historical one, and essentially evicting the Senior Center was your biggest downfall. I don't see why the Senior Center couldn't share in your new building and not working with them was a slap in the face, particularly to the people who regularly attend Town Meeting: senior citizens. As far as I know the main reasons for needing a new library are: current one is not handicapped accessible, the building is not structurally sound to hold stacks of books, and there's not enough space for computers. A couple of years ago you spent a lot of money building a ramp to make the building accessible, which it did not do. Individuals who cannot climb stairs only have access to one floor of the building and no access to a restroom. You don't have these books you need to stack. You kicked out the Historical Society from the third floor and use that space for what? An office? Seems like a mighty big space for one office. Going forward you are going to have an uphill battle because you've already pissed a lot of people off. There is also what XXX said on Town Meeting floor to contend with. We have a good library. We have a very good library and people aren't going to see past that to spend \$500,000 to build a "better" one.
- If you must have a new library, knock down the current library and build the new one in the same location as the current one. I think the current library is in the greatest location in town it could be.
- I'm a firm believer in education, knowledge, learning and reading. However, there are numerous libraries in close proximity to Hadley. I also believe that just because money is "free", doesn't mean that this agenda has to be forced upon the town. The current siting of the senior center and Goodwin library suits the town's needs perfectly. If anything, I thought that libraries would be downsizing in today's widespread information technology.
- Install an elevator. Move all Children's books, puzzles, videos etc. down to the basement. Allow children to use the back door to enter the basement at least during story time. Allow children to check out books down in the basement. Install a new restroom on the top floor.
- Libraries should be obsolete. No need with the Internet.
- Library trustees engaged in "groupthink", by failing to take into account all of the potential issues associated with their plan. They had no sensitivity to the current issues facing the town. Also, voters have approved a large sum of money to renovate the library over the past five years and many did not want to see this money go to waste.
- Not needed. Too costly. Would impact senior center.
- Please don't think that the 'no' vote means that voters do not like, use, support the library! I am concerned that we have buildings that are empty, being put up for sale, talk of full time FD, and especially the Senior Center being evicted (and then another new building?). The town needs a plan for all the buildings to propose to the voters!
- Put the new building on the east end of the hooker school property.
- Tearing down a historic building & leaving the future of another in jeopardy is not an option, period.
- Technology is the future of accessing information formerly only available at a B&M library. I would have liked to have seen the Planning Board leverage space in the proposed (but apparently now not viable in Hadley) 5 College Library building for a local library. Add to that townwide free or very low cost internet access (wifi, low cost or free charter accts or somesuch) and you might have something that can go into the future. Blend the new and the old--hand-in-hand.
- The idea of enhancing or improving the library is not a bad one. However, it should be recognized that we have many current library structures that can be utilized as well. While it is not realistic for the fate of all town land and buildings to be planned out in the same time frame as the library, making sure all of the building ideas (library included) fit into a plan that maximizes the potential for ALL buildings is one that should have an

effort made to be obtained. Using the "squeaky wheel gets the grease" plan and trying to ram a new library through was risky. To run with one idea without inter-department planning was poor planning. To propose the demolition of a historical building on a whim and to say that we are working on a plan for the Senior Center is not only unacceptable, it is a textbook example of how public policy should not be conducted. For this lack of vision, I will state that I am extremely disappointed in how the library trustees proceeded with this matter. Hooker School may one day come down if not a historic building (though I think that honoring General Hooker is important) but it should be part of a well thought out plan, not a "it's good for me and we'll figure everything else out later" plan. If there was a plan for some of the other departments, town land and a definitive plan for the Senior Center, I would have thought about it. The way that this proposal came about with minimal planning at best was unacceptable.

- The library is way down the list of important issues in the town. Police, fire, education, infrastructure, and others are more important than the library. Clearly the town didn't want it. Move on and improve the existing library.
- The library personnel were too cocky in the way they talked. They were going to knock Hooker School down and build a new library. Who are they to make that decision. The Hooker School was the Senior Center. Didn't like their attitude.
- The trustees did not take into consideration how the taxes would impact the elderly.
- There are already enough expenses in town that we don't need another one when the current library is serving the needs of the town in my opinion. Plus there are other large libraries in the area that Hadley residents can go to for their book needs.
- There are too many other priorities that need to be attended too before we need a new library in the town of Hadley. With all the modern technology people don't use libraries. Plus we don't need our taxes going up! People come up with these great ideas but don't think about cost and how it will be paid for!!
- There should be a definite plan for a new Senior Center before there is any movement for the proposed library.
- Think about other departments you don't need NEW.
- This plan would not replace the Senior Center !!!!!
- Three suggestions: 1) many folks in Hadley went to school at the site of the senior center, and voting for the library was tantamount to tearing down their elementary school. Do some focus groups to see why people voted against it. 2) frame the debate as good for students, with a new library a place for HA students to do research and study after school hours. GET THE PARENTS ON BOARD. The school and its teachers are a powerful voting bloc, and not harnessing this is detrimental. 3) ultimately, the facade of the Hooker School ought to be kept (upper floors can be town offices) and the back portion torn down to create the new library. There are countless architectural examples of this type of design. If this is impossible, an idea site is the green space and field in between the senior center and the legion.
- To displace senior center was not acceptable. To expand when less book space is needed and more tech is needed was unacceptable. To know that the school has a library with no librarian was a factor. The initial survey that was done was responded to by many in Hadley saying we did not need to expand. I thought that was ignored
- Two of my biggest concerns are prioritizing our building use and making sure essential services have funding for their needs prior to funding non-essential/leisure services.
- We Do Not Need A New Library At All!!! It would be a waste of tax payers money and i would rather spend it on something useful to the town
- We don't need a new library it cost too much and it's not the way of the future. We need to worry about other buildings first. The amount of people who use it is far less the the other buildings in town. I'd rather put in a senior center and find a place for that fire truck then worry about a library. I'm sorry but our kids have access to library's at schools at umass and in Amherst this isn't a priority.
- We love the Goodwin and feel fortunate to have the library and the many wonderful programs it offers. However we are a small town and such an expensive project and one that necessitated additional projects and relocations (senior center, town offices at hooker) of undisclosed cost made me concerned about potential costs and tax increases that my family cannot afford. It also seemed as though very little fundraising (from individuals and the many businesses in the area) had been done to support the project.

- We need to work on our public safety complex needs first and foremost.
- We really have a regional library system and the proposed plan was far too grandiose. Also, planned in the wrong location (look to the old middle school, next to Hopkins?).
- We should look at other options in this day of modern technology. Buildings are expensive. There are also many other library options in the area
- Where is the evidence that a town of Hadley's size needs a new, larger library? Doubtful that more space is needed to house books in the 21st. Century. If meeting space is the answer, very hard to justify the cost of \$5 million. The last option above is misleading, the real question is how much to invest and how, for what purpose. If I am against the current proposal, that does not mean I don't support investing in the library at all.
- With all the local libraries in this valley, spending money on a new library for Hadley seems excessive and unnecessary. We need far more in town besides a new library. I did not support the article and will not support future articles on building a new library
- With college libraries downsizing and the speed of developing technology I don't believe that there will be a need for a library in 15 years. I am 63 and I don't use a library, I do everything via the internet as does most that are 40 or less. There are better places for my tax money to go that will benefit everyone not just a few who use the library.
- You MUST bring everyone in town into the conversation if you wish to gain consensus for your project. Deciding to take someone else's space with no consideration or concern what position that might put them in or without direct conversation to all those this would have affected is arrogant and will not gain the confidence or trust of Hadley voters. This town is about more than just one department and since a Master Plan has been established, any decision to build or modify any building for any department must fit into the Master Plan for the entire town. Talk with the people of Hadley, not at them.
- You should have included the new plan (and I don't think you had one) for the senior center in your thinking. What did you expect the senior center do for space the minute the hooker school got torn down. There has to be a new senior center in place before you take down that building.

#### Comments by those uncertain/unaware/abstaining:

- I am all for the Library and support expansion. My family has always loved using the Library. The only thing I was uncertain of was the use of the Hooker School. It sounds like there are a lot of problems there with that building and perhaps another site would be better? I am not sure. But I do support the Library!
- I sincerely hope the process the library trustees have work so hard on is successful in the end.
- I think that a major project like this takes time, so I would not be upset over this first loss. There are so many projects that are more pressing and "first" in line, but it is worth getting your project rolling. I think that the thought of tearing down the historic front of Hooker School is a lot to swallow. Building an addition to the original Hooker School section would be much easier to vote in favor of, but I do see you wanting the beautiful free-standing building that was presented. I wish there was a way for the library to utilize the Russell School building as having that sit empty is not what we want to see for the center of town. Finally, do not even consider any proposal of land that is not in the immediate center of town....our town library is a special place and needs a special location right on the bus lines and just a stone's throw from the present location.
- Proposal should be resubmitted for the fall town meeting with the building located on the eastern half of the parcel without the destruction and closure of the council on aging.
- Thank you for asking! As much as you feel you did your "homework" before town meeting that was not enough! You did not make attempts to "sell" a new library before town meeting ie phone calls, flyers, emails that EXPLAINED the advantages, that spelled out why a 100+ year old building isn't adequate. You did not come prepared to "sell" the residents of Hadley on a new library. The first speaker used simple rhetoric ie she did not explain that the current building can't hold more stacks or that the new building would also be a community center with meeting rooms etc. You did not ask permission as others have in the past to show diagrams. Diagrams and handouts in the hall are too little too late. You also did not demonstrate on town mtg. floor that you had worked carefully with the Council on Aging to make plans for both organizations. You did not have "key supporters" (not on the board members) ready at the microphones to make these points. In

view of XXX comments you have a very hard sell and a very high price tag. I know that 'Boston" does not usually understand small towns but perhaps you could attempt a pioneering move and join forces with the Council on Aging for a joint facility using grant \$ from two sources.

- Would the new senior center be built or moved--ie established-- before the original senior center is torn down for the new library? Am concerned about the loss of the senior center for a period of time. Thank you.

#### Comments by "yes" voters:

- After attending the meeting I realized that Hadley is in dire need of many facilities or maybe combined use from one larger facility. Financially we need to prioritize our biggest needs and have a bigger perspective on how to meet these needs. I understand why it didn't pass.
- As a busy family, we missed the meeting and did not realize that a vote was going to be taken on the library. Had it been more clear to families that this important vote was being taken, I think there would have been a better turn-out. Families of students would have voted for the library. We take responsibility for not being there. But rather than long emails sent on this subject, signs around town and the schools that simply said Vote for the Library Thursday would have helped people pay attention.
- Best of luck. The library has always been a great place for our family.
- Can we team up the library with the senior center to build a new building together? Keep the nice floor plan we have for the new library, and put the senior center on top, or vice versa?
- Combining the proposal with demolishing the Hooker school may have contributed to the downfall of the article. And providing a fuller presentation about the benefits, current use of the library, etc. might be helpful. Hadley folks have to be thoroughly convinced to spend money.
- Despite the fact that we are surrounded by college libraries, I think Hadley still needs access to the CW/Mars system. Since this is so tangled up with the senior center issue, and since the old goats are probably the most likely to need Internet access and computer help, perhaps it would be wise to include the senior center in the library. Gain their support, get a ready patronage, and sneak in a little boost to town literacy on the side.
- Given how the vote went, I'm wondering if it might be feasible to create a community center that includes: senior center, library, and community meeting space [with kitchen]. That may garner the political will and support...and provide much-needed services in one place, thereby increasing the overall value and keeping a similar footprint. Definitely makes funding and planning a bit more challenging but it may be an approach worth considering.
- Hadley should have a larger, better staffed library. As a senior I use it frequently and am pleased with the kind people who work there but the facility is small and limited
- Hi. We were out of town that week and were so shocked by some of the recap we read in the paper and by friends who attended that night. So sorry.
- I am certain that if you slightly modify the design, so that a Senior Center building (or other town building) could be attached on the east end of the building, it would pass in a minute!
- I am on the COA Board. I am still hopeful that our two groups can arrive at a mutually satisfactory and productive way of moving forward on our respective building issues. I think that currently many citizens are poorly informed and possibly misled on these issues.
- I am unhappy about what happened at town meeting. It is obvious that "old townies" were out in force to derail the plan which would have jump started the process to improve all of the buildings in Hadley. Now the process is delayed once again, and as time marches on these buildings will deteriorate and the price to repair and/or replace them will go up. Again. ? Is Hadley waiting to receive results from a study that says "Repairing and/or replacing these buildings is not recommended"???
- I attended the event publicized in the Gazette last Thursday evening on the two Kennedy books. It was not handicapped accessible because you put it on the second floor with no elevator. I had to leave and it was a waste of my time and energy.
- I believe people voted this down bc you referred to it as a new library. It should have been referred to a new community center/library. The function of a library is changing and the need to physically take out a book is not as needed as much with e-books and do many other places to get books. The future library will consist of

more programs, as you are already trying to do. So my opinion is that if you referred to it also as a community center... a place for programs for all ages, it may have better received. The roll of town libraries is changing.

- I firmly support libraries and support the Goodwin and it's plan to explore and apply for grants to expand and renovate. Libraries have MUCH to offer and a society that does not value, support and protect it's libraries reveal a declining society. It's easy to diss them in this digital age and label them as dying or dinosaurs. This is not true and such statements are made out of ignorance. No matter how wrapped up in technology people become, we need our public libraries and I personally never want to read a book online or on a pad or whatever. I will always prefer the physical copy. We also use the library for far more than books. Not to invest in it is beyond a shame, it is a disgrace.
- I found it disgraceful the way you were treated at town meeting. There was no listening and no respect for the time and care you put into this proposal. This would not require a financial commitment yet, but people didn't seem to know or understand that. How come we didn't get to hear more from the library trustees at the meeting.
- I hope you bring the article back to fall town meeting.
- I support your efforts completely, and am very happy that you will keep trying. Hadley needs new leaders who will bring it into the 21st century.
- I supported the Library vote, though I have a few reservations considering the rich array of libraries in our area. One aspect that I think could help the cause might be emphasizing the library as a community space, possibly even partnering with other town organizations to make the new library a multi-purpose resource.
- I think the library and senior center should be built on a central campus together.
- I think the library needs to find another location, like the office space on Rt 9.
- I think there were too many articles on the warrant and I was worried I would be there all night.
- I think you have to find another sight as I think it will be years, if ever, to see hooker school come down.
- I think you would have more yes votes if the design includes a multi use feature such as library/ senior center/ town recreational facility. As the current buildings' uses are not being addressed the proposed article seems to displace current needs especially with a population of the town getting older and not younger.
- I was out of town for the town meeting but am very supportive of funding an expansion of the library in Hadley. It would be great to get our kids involved in promoting and fundraising since they will be the future of our town.
- I will always vote for libraries. However, this town is slow to accept change (except for Rt 9 box stores and malls). Some of the articles that passed, like Zatyryka Park, focused on the importance of building a town legacy for future generations; perhaps there could be some focus on that. Based on other comments at town meeting, informing citizens about how we can't rely solely on the libraries of neighbouring communities could also be useful for some. Could there be a movement to "get out the vote?" -- put out lawn signs, line up rides for people, etcetera. Thank you for all your work for the library!
- I'm all for the construction of a new library.
- I'm so sorry it didn't pass. I really like the new design and thought the placement of the new building would be a good one.
- I'm still angry and sad at how the library articles were discarded by town meeting. The negative comments reflected deep ignorance of the careful process of the building committee and the library in general, and there was no opportunity to respond to them. Discussion was cut off much too soon, and as it turned out, quite unfairly.
- It would have been great if we could have a new library and senior center at the same time. The building that is being used to house the senior center is not going to be able to take the people of Hadley into the future. It is inadequate and not a healthy building. It is the same problem with the library. We need both of these.
- Join forces with the senior center and double your chances of success! I don't believe this project will take off if people think the "poor seniors" will be out on their butts. You are all awesome!!!!
- Keep at it!
- Keep going, it's a great plan
- Keep pushing the project.
- Keep up the good work!

- Keep up the good work, you have done a very professional job. Your leadership has set a great example for others in Hadley to follow. Try to get voters to think in terms of public services provided to people in addition to just physical buildings.
- Linking the new library to tearing down the Hooker School/Senior Center added too much complexity to the recent vote. My hope is that you are able to find an alternate site so we can re-vote to move forward on the MA Libraries Grant application without immediately addressing the issues related to the Hadley Senior Center.
- More of the people at the town meeting should have been allowed to speak. Someone from the senior center or trustees should have mentioned the senior center is in the planning stages of a new center.
- New in town - haven't come by yet, but I will!
- Not a fair debate at town meeting. Next time ask for 5 minutes at the start to present the case.
- One of the reasons that I feel it failed was that many in the community, especially Seniors, felt "blindsided" by the fact that the library was to be built on the Council on Aging site. The actual pictures made it seem as if this was a reality in the very near future. At that point all were at a loss as to where the Seniors would go. We had no idea about where or when a new Senior Center would be built. It felt as if we were being "kicked out" of our facility. Better communication between the library board of trustees and the Senior Center staff and members would have certainly been an asset. The process is now in place for an analysis of the situation for replacing both structures.
- Perhaps more private meetings with elected officials...post a summary of usage in more visible locations, talk to high school and elementary teachers to get their perspective. Have pictures of the beautiful Granby library...
- Please use renewable energy sources for construction of new buildings in Hadley, such as the use of solar panels.
- Thank you to the Trustees for working so hard on this. I sincerely appreciate the time and energy you are putting in.
- The library is awesome and needs our communities support.
- The seven acres adjacent to Hopkins that town owns should be investigated as a possible site for new library. Also, I believe it should be designed and presented as a library/community center. A place for gathering, Internet, band space for town musicians & kids, etc. And of course, a "warehouse of books."
- The town has many issues with buildings in town and the expense of a new library is a hard sell to people who do not love and use the library like I do. You may have to look into trying to buy the church next door and using that to expand. V1 paid very little. He may be willing to sell it for a small profit. Many people said the town should have purchased that for the library. Many people are attached to our historic buildings. I must say the Goodwin is beautiful. To see it go idle would be sad.
- The T's need to emphasize that the library serves as a community center as well as a traditional library. And ask, "Is Hadley too poor to support a 21st century public library?"
- The whole process you have led has been an outstanding job of research, study, planning, community involvement, education..... I think you just need to maintain that information level. What we need to add is a strong presentation / discussion of the concept of "LIBRARY". The Town needs to learn. Here's an example of building the concept of Library in the hearts of voters: Libraries provide access, to thoughts, opinions, experiences in literature that enhance your experience beyond the fields of Hadley. Libraries give access to poetry that moves the soul beyond the Holyoke Range. Our library also gives access: to museums; to DVDs for entertainment and instruction; to space to discuss divergent and new points of view; to experiences for young growing minds and older learners too. You've never been to a library? I am sorry you never chose to expand your experience and point of view through all the library has to offer. We need to vote for the chance to be given funding for our new library. Consider the amazing possibilities a new facility will hold for the future. We must consider the future because it is our duty to foster imagination, creativity, and knowledge for our youth and for ourselves.
- Very disappointed the library warrant did not pass. I love going to the library and feel we DO need a newer larger space.
- When speaking with people they did not like the idea of tearing down Hooker School maybe a different site, or if the Sr. Center gets a study done and wants a new building it'll be better accepted. Also, many people feel that people don't go to the library so publishing and mentioning the number of people that come to the library

and the increase would be good. Not just circulation but actual people that visit the library. Everyone did a great job though. Thank you.

- While I do not use the Goodwin (I work at an academic institution in the area), I believe in the availability of a town library for our community.
- While I voted yes out of a general support of libraries, I did resonate with some of the concerns raised about whether this is the best way to allocate resources, since there are many good options for libraries all over the valley and even for people who use the Hadley library exclusively, it's easy enough to get materials through Inter Library Loan. I am a big library user, but I usually go to the Jones because the selection is better and more importantly, the hours are much more convenient--whenever I try to go to the Hadley library it's closed. I'd much rather see resources allocated for more opening hours than for a new building and all the baggage that contains with ecological issues around construction and demolition and the senior center issue. That being said, I would much more strongly support a new library that could also function more as a community center with good options for designated meeting and performance space(s). This is something we could really use in Hadley, and a way that the library could serve a wider section of the community including those who currently aren't bibliophiles.