

Location, Location, Location

The New Glarus Public Library Board of Trustees is committed to moving forward on a new library facility so that residents of the greater New Glarus area can enjoy expanded collections, programming and technology now and into the future. The Library Board is working with the Village Board to create an enduring library on any location that accomplishes those goals.

The library location has been studied and discussed for over 15 years. The April 1, 2014 referendum provided the village voters with two library locations, West Side and Glarner Park. Rather than selecting one of the sites on the referendum, the Village Board directed the Library Board on July 5, 2014 to move “forward with the proposal for the library to remodel the Village Hall with village staff relocating contingent on having a project and operating budget in place.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

West Side: The property on the West Side was purchased with donated library funds and approved by the Village Board in 2011. A concept design and preliminary operating budget have been completed for this site.

Glarner Park: Relocation of the softball field was an issue at the Glarner Park site. Village Board President, Roger Truttmann, announced at the Village Board meeting on July 15, 2014 that “after discussion with the School District, they would be willing to cost share for the building of a new field across from the High School. He further indicated that the Village had someone who would be willing to donate the Village’s portion of that cost.”

Village Hall: Over \$20,000 has been invested in studies on the feasibility of the library expanding and/or taking over the Village Hall. The Vierbicher (2002) study summarized the Village Hall as an interim solution until a more appropriate sized property with expansion capabilities was available. The Plunkett Raysich (2004) study outlined maintenance concerns and building code compliance issues that need to be addressed in any remodeling plan.

KEY DOCUMENTS (available in the library or at newglaruspubliclibrary.org)

- **Site Evaluation:** Presented to the Village Board on May 6th, this report summarizes the site selection criteria with pros and cons for the West Side and Glarner Park locations.
- **Overview of Village Hall Feasibility Studies:** Presented to the Village Board on August 5th, 2014, this report summarizes the key facts, design options, and open issues with remodeling the Village Hall.

The Library Board, appointed by the Village Board, continues to work with the Village Board to build a new library at any of these sites using existing funds available through donations and borrowing. Together, we can:

- Meet the space needs for the library today through at least 2025.
- Be fiscally responsible with building costs; yet invest in upfront energy saving options to reduce operating expenses.
- Provide a facility that represents and supports our Swiss heritage and community.
- Work with a fiscally responsible operating budget to meet current and future service needs.

- Collaborate on opportunities to obtain grants and endowment funds.

Submitted by the New Glarus Public Library Board