

## LIBRARY EXPANSION PROJECT RUMORS AND FACTS

RUMORS	FACTS
The Island House will lose its historic designation.	<b>Fact.</b> Both the 4,100 sq. ft. plan and the 6,300 sq. ft. plan have the approval of the State Historic Preservation Office.
100 trees will be cut down.	<b>Fact.</b> One tree will be removed and one tree will be moved to a new location.
Our taxes will increase to pay for the expansion.	<b>Fact.</b> The Library Board has made a commitment to pay for the project with private funds and grants.
The library building will be torn down.	<b>Fact.</b> The Library Board has no authority to tear down the building, nor does it want to.
The Library has raised the millage every year since 2014.	<b>Fact.</b> The Library Board has no authority to raise the millage rate without the vote of the people in the Library District. The millage rate has been reduced since 2002 from the voted .6 mil to .5280 (2016), .5259 (2017), .5210 (2018), .5182 (2019) because of legislation called the Headlee Amendment, which is designed to prevent taxes from increasing when property values rise.
The Library Board is putting in a restaurant for boaters. It will compete with local coffee shops.	<b>Fact.</b> The 6,300 sq. ft. plan offers a possible “vending” area with tables so people can sit and chat and have a cup of coffee that they can bring from local coffee shops.
Only people outside the village want the expansion.	<b>Fact.</b> Many people in the entire district want a world class Library, and understand the value it can bring to a community
The Library Board is not being transparent.	<b>Fact.</b> The Library Board has been as transparent as possible. There were numerous opportunities for public input with the architects before they started designing. All relevant documents are available on the Library website. Many Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) requests have been fulfilled. Updates and clarifications have been published in the newspaper, and Library Board meetings are always open to the public.

<p>The Library Board wants to expand the Library because the bequest money is burning a hole in their pocket.</p>	<p><b>Fact.</b> When the Library Board received the bequest, it wanted to use the money in the most meaningful way possible for the benefit of the community. The Library Board did lengthy strategic planning, including surveys, interviews, community focus groups and other data gathering to find out what the community wanted. The result: A desire for more of everything. To provide more – comfortable seating, programs, computers, magazines, books, movies, etc. – the Library needs more space.</p>
<p>The Library is moving and the Island House will become a restaurant.</p>	<p><b>Fact.</b> The Island House has been home to our Library since 1949 and the majority of people want it to remain there. The Library Board has no idea what the Island House may be used for if the Library moves out, given the deed restrictions.</p>
<p>The Library Board did not consider other options such as a satellite library or moving the library to another location.</p>	<p><b>Fact.</b> The Library Board gave serious consideration to every suggested alternate solution for additional space, and concluded the best option is to expand the current building in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior guidelines. The enlarged library would maintain the charming character and historic integrity of The Island House. It would retain its historic marker, and area residents would continue to enjoy the Island House Library as they have for almost 70 years.</p>
<p>Taxpayers' taxes will INCREASE to maintain the building.</p>	<p><b>Fact.</b> Budget projections through 2025 show there will be no need for a millage increase to operate the Library for many years. Taxpayers will have to pay for the maintenance and upkeep of the Island House should the Library Board decide to vacate the building.</p>