

South Thomaston Library and Community Center Facility Committee
 Year in Review November 2021 – November 2022

Current Members are Gabriel Tomasulo (co-chair), Sandy Weisman (co-chair), Moira Paddock, Candace Smith, Marcia Turner, Catherine Lerme.

There is currently one open slot. Please contact the town office if you would like to join us.

Our mission to plan and fundraise for the construction of a new library and community center was passed at the 2021 town meeting.

A survey of the South Thomaston community about needs and desires for a new library / community center was conducted from September 2021 through July 2022. The top 10 choices for each space are summarized below:

LIBRARY Spaces and Services	N=74	COMMUNITY Spaces and Services	N=74
Children' Room	58	Town Meetings (Potlucks, Dances)	59
Visiting Authors and Book Illustrators	51	Group Meetings	54
Reading Space: cool in Summer, warm in Winter	48	Exercise Classes	53
Children's Story Time	47	Kitchen Facility	50
Reading Room	46	Emergency Shelter	48
Book Groups: Teen and Adults	39	Speakers: Various Subject Matters	48
Technology Assistance	33	Garden Area (Raised Beds, Fruit Trees)	44
Study Desks	32	Skate Park/ Playground	42
Welcoming Center	32	Patio / BBQ Outdoor Space	40
Learning Center	31	Senior Lunches	40
		Music Events	40

Research is ongoing regarding the fund-raising process and the design of the building.

In March 2022, Liz Jenkins, former director of AIO (Area Interfaith Outreach) in Rockland shared her experience raising \$1million+ for the new building in Rockland. A committee that is 100% aligned with the mission and the willingness and ability to call on fund-raising professionals were key elements of AIO’ s success.

Visiting neighboring libraries and interviewing their librarians about their wishes and regrets continue to inform our own design process.

Gabe Tomasulo, an architect, has been leading us through an imagining **space and uses as well** documenting process. This process will continue until we can present a

schematic **design that is** flexible, well-equipped, green **energy efficient** building that will satisfy the wishes expressed by the survey results.

Fund-raising requires a careful set-up. A non-profit entity (the South Thomaston Library and Community Center Auxiliary) was approved by the town at the June 2022 town meeting.

- Bylaws were crafted, reviewed, revised, and provisionally approved by both the SelectBoard and the Library / Community Center Facility committee.
- The Board of the non-profit, yet to be constituted, will vote on the final approval of the bylaws.
- The Board will comprise of 7 members.
- An information packet of relevant documents and expectations has been prepared for prospective candidates.
- We are currently coordinating, with the SelectBoard, the process of nominating and appointing candidates to the Board of Directors of the STLCCA.

Next steps

1. The Library/Community Center Committee will create a set of expectations for the next year of their work at their December meeting.
2. It is important for us to continually get feedback from the South Thomaston citizens.
3. We will continue to inform you how you can assist us with your opinions, ideas, and help as we approach the fundraising aspects of our tasks.

*There is one vacancy on our committee. If you are interested in joining us now, please let either Gabe Tomasulo (gabriel.tomasulo@gmail.com) or Sandy Weisman (sandy.weisman2@gmail.com) know. You can also contact the SelectBoard.