

Questions from the community to Library Board 6/14/2016

(Questions displayed exactly as they were offered the the Library Board)

Responses given June 30, 2016

1. Has the Roughing It building been considered? If so, what is the reason it is not feasible?

The Old Bank Building/Roughing It building has not been formally considered, but the criteria in use since 2001 are very straightforward and can be easily applied to any property. Below is an example for the Old Bank Building/Roughing It building.

Access:	
<i>Does the site allow safe vehicular & pedestrian access?</i>	yes/no
<i>Does the site allow universal access (i.e., ADA compliance)?</i>	no
Capacity:	
Is the existing structure big enough?	no
Is the load bearing capacity at least 150 pounds/square foot?	?
<i>Is there on-site parking & room for expansion?</i>	no
Is there enough land to support structure, setbacks, landscaping?	yes
Suitability/Desirability of Site:	
Does the site have a central location?	yes
Is it centrally located & visible?	yes
Is it in a nuisance-free environment?	yes
Is the site compatible with nearby services (i.e., zoning)?	yes
Flexibility of Design:	
<i>Is an open, one-level design possible?</i>	no
Does the site support a "library-friendly" configuration?	no
Does the site allow space for outdoor programming?	no
Site Availability:	
Is site available?	?
Will use of the site for a library remove a property from the tax base?	yes
Are there other complicating factors to consider?	?
Site-specific Criteria:	
Are there Building restrictions, or is the building on a hist preservation list?	yes
Is there space to allow for water retention?	N/A
<i>Site accessible during festivals?</i>	no
<i>Is site in a floodplain?</i>	no

Items in *italics* are considered primary site attributes, as reflected in question #39-40.

As shown, the Library Board does not use a single criterion to deem a site or location a good candidate. Since the Library Board is open to new construction or a remodel, the criteria may be applied to either. The overall picture is what provides the guidance. In this case, the site may not be available (there is a pending offer) and centrally located, but serious drawbacks include the two-level design, difficult access, and parking. This is consistent with questions 39 and 40.

2. We often hear the reason locations are not ideal is because of a flood plain. Isn't the village mostly flood plain? Included Glarner park?

As described above, flood plain is a consideration because there are restrictions and regulations on development that will impact project costs. The gravel infield and surrounding area in Glarner Park are not in the flood plain, but the majority of the outfield is. The FEMA floodplain map below shows this.



¹the blue line indicates the 100 year flood plain boundary

²The red box indicates the general outline of Glarner Park

³The green box indicates the location of the Fire Station

⁴ The black box indicates the location of Village Hall

3. Could locations that are not currently zoned appropriately for the library easily be rezoned by the village board to allow the library to build in a location like the old feed mill.

Unfortunately, the Library Board cannot answer questions on how specific properties should be zoned, this is best addressed by the village. But, the Library Board could make a request to re-zone, which would be considered like a request from any other developer.

4. In the community it has been heard that the current library is not in budget and asks the village for assistance. Is this true?

No. The library has remained within its budget each year. Evidence of being “not in budget” is asking for a budget amendment during the fiscal year. The current Library Board members do not recall asking for a budget amendment in any year back to at least 2001.

5. Was it originally agreed upon that the library would not ask for tax dollars related to the sustainability of the library? Yes or No?

Many people have said various things about this, but the library board has not made this claim or agreed to its premise. A new facility will cost more to run, and several options have been pursued to avoid burdening the village with this cost. The three largest efforts have been the Village-Town Boundary Agreement, Town rental space within the library, and fundraising. The former two were unsuccessful, the latter is incomplete. Finding ways to operate a new library with minimal new input from the village is an area in which the Library Board is very determined and active.

6. Is the west side location likely going to be sell-able now? Is it under the impression of the community that that land was not of any interest to anyone else. Could that still be an option for library? Or the police station?

The Library Board has received interest in the sale of the west side location, so it is not accurate that the land is of no interest to anyone else, and the land is “sellable.”

In concept, the west side location could be a location for the library. However, after initially agreeing to the site as the new library, the Village Board received feedback that a downtown location was preferred by many residents and the business community, including daycares. Suitability criteria favored Glarner Park and voters were asked on the April 2014 advisory referendum whether they preferred Glarner Park located west of the Fire Department, or the parcel located to the west of the Swiss Center of North America. The Library Board supports the referendum results which narrowly favored Glarner Park.

Unfortunately, suitability of the west side site for a police station is not something the Library Board can answer. This is best answered by the village.

7. Has an estimate took place on the renovation of the Village hall? If so when, and how much was that estimate?

Yes. Two plans (estimates) were done to remodel Village Hall to include a larger library:

- Vierbecher outlined a temporary solution in 2002, while a more permanent location is identified. The cost at that time was estimated to be \$252,250 for a 4,250 square foot library. Documentation from this study repeatedly underscored the interim nature of their proposal.
- In 2004, Plunkett-Raysich outlined eight (8) permanent options, all of which involved remodeling Village hall. These eight options included various combinations of a library and other village departments. Of note, a library-only option was estimated to cost \$1,958,381 for 18,850 square feet, and an additional \$2,465,370 to relocate displaced village departments (total estimate = \$4,423,751). Various combinations of village departments were included in the other seven options, and the highest cost estimate to renovate Village Hall for the library and relocate displaced village departments was estimated to cost \$7,416,684 (+/- 10%).

The Library Board was asked by the Village Board in 2014 to offer an opinion on the suitability of Village Hall. Taking both studies into account, the costs involved, and a statement from the village Building Inspector, the site was determined to be unsuitable. All documents, including the opinion by the Library Board are available.

8. Is it true that there are less than 12 donors to the current library fund for the new building? And you are keeping those names private? Is that their request? Or yours?

No, as of today there were 44 multi-year pledges and many one-time donations to the building fund, totaling more than \$723,000. Fundraising for the building is far from over, and we anticipate the number of donors and total funds raised to increase substantially.

While some donors have selected anonymity, not all have. It is on the recommendation of Village Attorney that the Library Board attempt to balance the release of enough information for the public to gauge support for the project, with protection of confidential donor information.

9. When the village board originally planned to give you the Glarner spot after the referendum, passed didn't the library board agree to make sure that an adequate space was built for the kids to use prior to breaking ground? Is that still going to happen?

It has been the long-standing position that establishment of a new library must happen in a manner consistent with village planning and priorities, not at the expense of them. Unfortunately, the Library Board cannot lead on issues of village planning like parks, so this is best answered by the village.

10. Has the library board done a survey to receive actual numbers on the lack of electronics in homes within New Glarus to know that there are families in desperate need of this provided by the library?

We are not aware of a village-wide inventory of technology in homes and businesses, or the level of need by families; and the library has not performed such a survey.

The library does, however, keep statistics on computer and wi-fi usage within the library. In 2015, there were 2,190 uses of the four public Internet computers and 29,729 uses of the free public wireless Internet provided by the library. Community members have expressed interest in library programs to teach how to use technology to access quality information including library databases such as Ancestry Library.

11. When was the most recent bid given regards to the current plans for the new library at Glarner?

No bids have been obtained for the Glarner park site. Cost estimates are a work in progress, with the most current dated October 21, 2015, and an addendum issued on December 8, 2015.

12. Is it true that many necessity items will be left out of the plan when you build because of lack of funding?

No. As referenced above, costs and building amenities must be balanced with funds available for building, and this work is not yet complete.

To get a sense of the work to to be done, a site must first be approved by the Village Board. Once that is done, fundraising will resume and planning for that is well underway. The Architect and Construction Manager at Risk will be re-engaged and work with the library Building Committee and Library Board in working out the details and getting the best value for funds available. The final plan will be well-advertised for public comment, and community members will also be asked to help with in-kind donations.

13. Is it true that the library currently does not have to pay for things like snow removal, and utilities?

Snow removal, mowing, water & sewer, electric, natural gas, and maintenance and upkeep of the building are currently paid by the village. The library pays phone, Internet, a portion of Village Hall insurance and village-wide audit, and contributes to the village administration software.

14. Is it true that the village residents will have an increase in their utility bill to help pay for Library utilities? If so how much is the projected(%)?

No. Costs associated with the installation of all utilities would be part of the construction budget, and in a new facility, the library fully expects to be a customer of New Glarus Utilities like any other household or business.

15. In addition to baseball and softball isn't it true that Glarner is used for soccer practice and games?

Specific uses of village parks (including Glarner Park) are not tallied by the library. Therefore, this is best answered by the village.

16. Where would the landing option be for Medflight if Glarner space was gone? Is it true that the EMS and Fire-station use this for community outreach events/fund-raising?

Emergency services are not coordinated by the Library Board. Therefore, this item is best answered by the the UW-Medflight, New Glarus EMS, New Glarus Fire District, or village.

17. If the library were built at Glarner would this stop the Fire-station from necessary expansion in the foreseeable future?

Renovation plans for the Fire Station are not tracked by the Library Board. This item is best answered by the the New Glarus Fire District or village.

18. Has there been any amount of record keeping done on the amount of visitors to the library though out the week? If so, what are those numbers?

Yes, records are kept and reported on all kinds of library usage. In 2015, there were 33,137 visitors, 71,568 items were circulated (including 26,316 children's materials), and 2,522 people attended programs at the library.

19. What are the increase/decrease numbers in the utilization of libraries in the surrounding communities? Are you projecting that this number is going to skyrocket in our community? Why?

The service population of the New Glarus Public Library has been trending upward. We also know that library services remain very popular, especially reading programs. Programming for all ages remains incredibly important and while print circulation may be declining slightly, program attendance is growing. Adequate space is needed to hold such events encourage positive interactions like collaboration and innovation. We do not have any reason to anticipate a stagnation or decrease in service utilization patterns in the coming

years, in fact, adjoining communities that have undergone a library expansion experience an increase in circulation and visits.

20. When coming up with your plans for the library did you look at the surrounding community libraries? How much larger will our library be on average versus them?

Absolutely, this is an ongoing process. We also actively seek the advice of Library Directors whose facilities have undergone recent expansions. Comparisons are tricky because each new library (including the proposals offered by the Library Board) are responses to community preferences, as well as service usage patterns, and growth estimates. Obviously, these are different for each community. The Library has repeatedly sought all of the advice above and we are confident that our proposals are good reflections of the New Glarus community. To help validate this, the Library Board and staff worked closely with a specialized building consultant from the South Central Library System in developing space needs and space use options that reflect the New Glarus Community.

Location	Year Constructed	Square Feet
New Glarus	Proposed	12,000
Brodhead	2009	15,000
Cross Plains	2006	16,500
Albany	2006	7,000
Mount Horeb	2002	16,000
Marshall	2002	9,000

21. Do you feel that we could provide all the necessities of a function-able library at a more feasible expense without going above 6,000 sq ft?

No, 6,000 square feet would not be a functional library for New Glarus. In order to house our existing book collection in a safe and universally-accessible fashion would take 4,340 square feet alone. This leaves insufficient space for strictly necessary areas like an entryway, bathrooms, and staff work areas; but also areas that are cornerstones of community use of our library like space for story time, a local history area, and space for programming.

22. If the community were to help with things like landscaping, paint, setting up, and cleaning would you allow them to be apart of the project to cut down on costs?

Yes! The library is very enthusiastic about this option. In fact, any in-kind donation of product, service, or labor is tax deductible. The only caution is that changing prevailing wage laws may raise hurdles to this, but the Library Board is prepared to seek definitive direction when the time is right.

23. Previously to the referendum vote 3 years ago how many votes have taken place regarding location?

The only public vote regarding location was the 2014 referendum. While public voting efforts (i.e., referenda) are the sole responsibility of the village, significant opportunities for public input and site assessment have been done by the Library Board. The most recent opportunities are outlined in question #26.

24. With the new library do you plan to expand hours of operation? When surveying around town many residents say that they attend outside libraries because of your hours.

It is not possible to say whether hours will be changed, although it is the objective of the Library Board to keep what we have, at minimum. The Library Board is aware that additional hours of operation are the most expensive change a library can make because it involves salary and benefits. This must be carefully weighed against programs, services, and collections.

It is also worth pointing out that the reasons given to library trustees and staff by people who elect to use another library are very consistently a) convenience to commute pattern, or b) the very cramped space of the current library. It is exceptionally rare that we hear the library is closed when they wish to use it.

Comparison of area library hours of operation

	New Glarus	Belleville	Brodhead	Monroe	Verona	Fitchburg
Monday	10AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-9PM	9AM-9PM	9AM-9PM
Tuesday	10AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-9PM	9AM-9PM	9AM-9PM
Wednesday	10AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-9PM	9AM-9PM	9AM-9PM
Thursday	10AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-9PM	9AM-9PM	9AM-9PM
Friday	10AM-7PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-6PM	12PM-6PM	9AM-5PM	10AM-6PM
Saturday	10AM-3PM	9AM-12PM	9AM-1PM	9AM-4PM	9AM-4PM	10AM-6PM
Sunday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Hours/week	50	51	53	61	63	64

25. How many kids (on average) attend story hour?

In 2015, we had 512 children attend storytime, and in 2016, we're poised to surpass that with 393 attending through May. We hold storytime an average of 39 weeks of the year with additional children's programs all year long. An example would be our successful summer reading program, which is also supported by local businesses.

26. How much public input was received in the planning process? Has a strategic plan been developed and/or updated to reflect technological and cultural changes? How much input was received from parents, local schools, day care providers in the development of the plan?

During the capital campaign planning process, opportunities were provided by personal interviews, phone interviews, a focus group for the NG business community, and direct mail questionnaires. Additionally, questionnaires were made available at the library and published online at the library website. Opposing viewpoints were actively sought.

During the design process, two “listening sessions” were held by the architects. These were well advertised, and well-attended. A variety of options for input were made available, including selecting preferred building components from pictures, recording comments about specific design elements, and comments were recorded for a few preliminary building layouts which were displayed on the wall.

Input was sought from community residents, parents, day care providers, teachers, local businesspeople, and municipal leaders at each of these stages.

In addition to the referendum, every Library Board meeting, and Village Board meeting have an opportunity for public comment. The village and library maintain Facebook pages, and trustee contact information is available on the respective websites.

The point of this listing is not to be perfectly inclusive. Rather, it should be well-illustrated that there have been many opportunities for public input at every stage of the planning processes.

One of the first design steps was to understand how the community uses the library, what areas are highly used, which areas could be pared back, and what reasonable expectations of the future might be. This is called the Building Program, and is used by the library to help wisely allocate resources, and the architects to tailor the building for the community.

27. Has bowling alley location been considered? Please explain

The bowling alley was not considered in past evaluations because it was not available when sites were being assessed. Additionally, plans were approved by the Plan Commission on 6/23/2016 for a convenience store on that site.

28. The records of the architect for the Library at Glarner Park stated that there were things like asphalt, outer wall insulation, indoor plumbing, window coverings and Landscaping that would not be completed because of funds.

This is not an accurate representation of the records of the architect, and more importantly, the Library Board would not consider opening a library without the items specified in the question. As mentioned previously, (see #11), items are described in the addendum, and should be viewed as preliminary planning, because the addendum is intended to force the proposal into an all-in building cost, which it does. Its primary utility is as a tool to see the difference between the budget and proposal as it currently stands, and the work that must be done to secure additional building funds, trim building features, or reduce the size/amenities (perhaps all). Because this has not been done the addendum can only be viewed as a crude mechanism to force the project into balance of size and building cost, nothing more, nothing less. As outlined in #22, some of these items would make great options for an in-kind donation from local contractors or businesses.

29. Is the current almost 12,000 sq ft still the current plan?

Twelve-thousand square feet is the goal, yes. It should be noted that square footage can be deceiving, because structure, walls, mechanical equipment are also included in the overall goal. In the current 12,000 square foot proposal, 1,740 sq. ft. are occupied by mechanical/structural space, leaving 10,260 square feet of “usable” area.

30. If the village board allowed a location like Glarner park to be on the referendum and knew that it could be voted against why do you believe it was put as a ballot option?

This is not a question the Library Board can answer since the Village Board presented the referenda on the project.

31. Do you believe that e-books and electronic usage takes less space than book collections like previously needed to operate the majority of a library?

Overall, yes, but the full answer may be surprising. While some library patrons utilize electronic book readers, there is still a very large number of people who prefer print books including teens and young adults¹ who are exceptionally tech savvy. It is tempting to think that there is a dramatic and sudden shift toward electronic resources, but statistics for our library document circulation of 71,568 physical items and 4,769 electronic items in 2015. This does not support a sudden or dramatic shift to electronic media accessed in our library.

¹ K.Zickuhr and L. Rainie, “Younger Americans’ library habits and expectations,” 2013.
<http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/06/25/younger-americans-library-services/>

32. If the majority of library use becomes electronic wouldn't we need significantly less space than what is needed for book collections?

No. What the local, regional, and national trends indicate is that people view libraries as gathering spaces. Therefore, flexible design is the key. Areas dedicated to physical space may look very different in 10-20 years, but programs and other services are expanding to fill the void. Additionally, statistics for our library document circulation of 71,568 physical items and 4,769 electronic items in 2015 – which does not support a sudden or dramatic shift to electronic media accessed in our library.

33. Is there a legal document that says the people that donated to the non profit organization cannot be used for a renovation project? If so could they be contacted and asked to sign off on the use of a renovation option?

No donor to the library project has specified that their contribution or support is contingent on new construction, and it is not required or implied on any donor form, all of which are available.

34. Is it true the New Glarus Brewery (Deb Carey) was going to donate half of the cost of library? What was the reason she did not?

No, this is not true.

35. How many years has the library come in on budget. This also means not asking to have budget increased?

As described in #4, The library has remained within its budget each year. The library does ask for increases during the annual budget cycle, primarily to cover salary increases consistent with other village staff salary increases and to cover increasing fringe benefit costs.

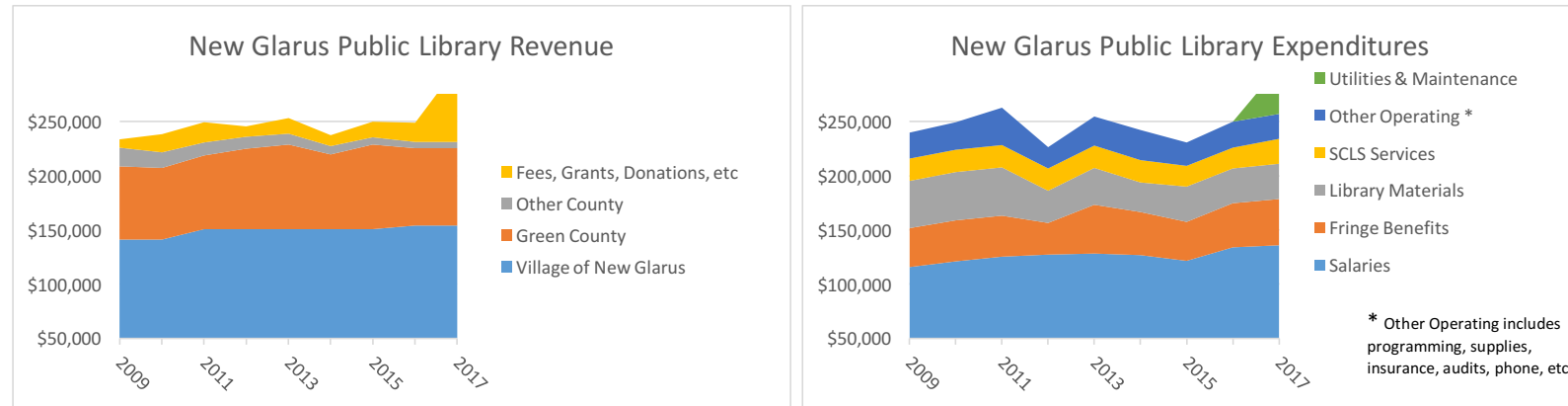
36. Copy of library budget broken down

Below is a summary of the library's budget, back to 2009, including expenses for a new library opening in 2017. A line-item version is also available, but we have found most people prefer this summary.

NGPL Operating Budget Overview:

Revenue for the library is provided by the Village of New Glarus, Green County, other county taxes, and other revenue (fees, grants and donations).

Expenditures include staff, library materials, South Central Library System (SCLS) services, and other operating. In the new library, additional utilities & maintenance expenses will be incurred. The following is an overview of the revenue and expenditures reported to DPI from 2009 and projected through 2017.



REVENUE	Wisconsin DPI Annual Report						Estimates			Notes
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Village of New Glarus	\$140,939	\$141,007	\$150,703	\$150,703	\$150,703	\$150,703	\$150,703	\$153,920	\$153,920	V.1: Annual Appropriation. Does not include utilities - shared facility reported to DPI.
Green County	\$67,760	\$66,010	\$68,093	\$74,296	\$78,313	\$68,863	\$77,991	\$71,709	\$71,709	V.2a:
Other County	\$17,407	\$14,676	\$11,973	\$11,054	\$9,827	\$7,729	\$6,948	\$5,777	\$5,777	V.2b:
Fees, Grants, Donations, etc	\$7,279	\$16,567	\$18,783	\$9,578	\$14,532	\$10,000	\$14,429	\$17,468	\$69,121	V.4+7:
	\$233,385	\$238,260	\$249,552	\$245,631	\$253,375	\$237,295	\$250,071	\$248,874	\$300,527	
EXPENDITURES	Wisconsin DPI Annual Report						Estimates			Notes
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Salaries	\$115,545	\$121,089	\$125,510	\$127,442	\$127,980	\$126,548	\$121,267	\$133,862	\$135,870	VI.1:
Fringe Benefits	\$35,993	\$37,795	\$37,429	\$29,133	\$45,242	\$39,861	\$36,040	\$40,800	\$42,840	VI.2:
Library Materials	\$43,828	\$44,472	\$44,763	\$29,384	\$33,935	\$27,485	\$32,553	\$32,294	\$32,294	VI.3:
SCLS Services	\$20,320	\$20,714	\$20,714	\$20,992	\$20,902	\$20,405	\$19,172	\$18,979	\$23,139	VI.4:
Other Operating*	\$24,335	\$25,451	\$34,283	\$19,478	\$26,629	\$28,032	\$21,868	\$23,939	\$23,064	VI.5:
Utilities & Maintenance									\$43,320	
	\$240,021	\$249,521	\$262,699	\$226,429	\$254,688	\$242,331	\$230,899	\$249,874	\$300,527	

Wisconsin Public Library Service Data: http://pld.dpi.wi.gov/pld_dm-lib-stat

37. The proposed method of raising money without costing taxpayers?

As described in question #5, a new facility will cost more to run, and several options have been pursued to avoid burdening the village with this cost. The three largest efforts have been the Village-Town Boundary Agreement, Town rental space within the library, and fundraising. The former two were unsuccessful, the latter is incomplete. Finding ways to operate a new library with minimal new input from the village is an area in which the Library Board is very determined and active.

38. By vote of library board ,

- a. how many members think it is ok to displace any member of the community to obtain the library you want??(i.e softball, vets park, tennis players, youth school activities that take place at Vet location. *Vote of same board.**

Question #9 is very similar. It has been the long-standing position that establishment of a new library must happen in a manner consistent with village planning and priorities, not at the expense of them.

- b. How many members believe the softball/baseball teams should have a completed 100% field (field lights, scoreboards, shed, bleachers, water etc.) prior to breaking ground for the library**

While the Village Board is responsible for and working on improving park access, including the softball/baseball fields, The Library Board has offered to work with the village to ensure that development on Glarner Park will not interrupt an ongoing use of the field, like a season that is underway. In fact, in the memo that accompanied the May 2016 Library Board Resolution, we proposed working with the village on a timeline to transfer Glarner Park at such a time that both library construction and recreation programs can continue uninterrupted.

- c. Should the new library be put on glarner park**

Due to the results of the 2014 referendum, recommendation of the Special Subcommittee in 2013, strong preferences of many in the community – including businesses and families – to have a downtown location, and previous site assessment work, the Library Board made a formal request for Glarner Park to be designated as the home of the new library in its May 2016 Resolution, with specific conditions. The Village Board affirmed this request on May 17th by a vote of 6-1, which was tabled to create an opportunity for this meeting to occur.

39. There seems to be a perception among some residents of New Glarus that the Library Board is “too picky” about the location and size of an expanded library space. Can you briefly discuss the unique requirements that a public library – as a municipal building – must meet. And also, can you briefly summarize the list of characteristics a property should have in order to seriously be considered as a location for an expanded library?

It is understandable that the perception is that the Library Board is too picky, this has been a long and complex process. But, the reality is that existing buildings and vacant land have

all been seriously considered, and the Library Board remains committed to providing excellent services to the community, regardless of location. The Library Board takes much more pride in the services it offers, than advocating for development of any parcel of land.

Minimally, libraries, as municipal buildings, must be universally accessible, provide a safe work and visiting environment, and complement the functions and sensibilities of the municipality. In practice, this means that a library must meet ADA compliance when built or renovated; not present physical, monetary, or legal impediments to enter or enjoy services; and employees must not be put in physical danger while working.

In addition, New Glarus residents expect very high quality learning and recreation opportunities through the schools and parks. These offerings are supplemented by the Swiss Historic Village, Chalet of the Golden Fleece. Likewise, community members have come to expect the New Glarus Public Library to enhance the educational and recreational opportunities available to community members at all stages of life. Finally, there a very strong community preference to balance wise investment with fiscal responsibility. All of this has been voiced at every opportunity for public input during the library planning and design process, and we believe both of the library proposals (for the Hwy. 39 site and Glarner Park) are good reflections of the community priorities as described above.

A full list of site assessment criteria are outlined in question #1. But, the most serious (or important) are listed in the table in question #40, along with the rationale.

40. Can you briefly summarize how the purchase of the Hwy. 39 property (next to SCNA) – which was approved by the Village Board in 2011– met the necessary characteristics identified in the previous question?

Yes. Please see table on the next page.

Chief Site Criteria and Positive Attributes of Hwy. 39 Site

Criterion	Reason for importance	How criterion was satisfied by the Hwy. 39 property
Safe and universal access	For vehicles, there are plenty of difficult intersections in the village, the Library Board does not wish to add to that problem. Because the New Glarus Public Library is a public service, there can be no physical, monetary, or legal impediments to use library services.	A shared driveway off Durst Road was negotiated with SCNA to assure safe vehicular access, avoiding Hwy. 39 access. Additionally, informal studies performed by NG Police, a retired DOT highway engineer, did not find any data suggesting the site was unsafe. Specific recommendations were made to enhance visibility and safety. There are no studies indicating the site is unsafe.
Adequate parking	Downtown parking is a long-standing problem, and many people have expressed concern that installation of a library in the downtown will make that problem worse. Parking must be incorporated on the site – it cannot be simply dumped onto the downtown streets.	Enough parking was designed into the site plan to meet village parking requirements.
Accessibility during festivals	The library must remain accessible during all hours of operation, and should not be expected to curtail services or programs due to festivals.	Since the site was located away from festival sites and parking, this would not have been an issue.
Space for expansion	This option serves three purposes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allowing for outdoor programming 2. Avoiding the need to relocate if an expansion is needed in the future 3. Preserving green space within the village 	Space for expansion was identified and marked on the site design for the west side site.
Open, one-level design	This deals directly with fiscal responsibility, services, and safety. If two or more levels are needed, additional staff and an elevator (and annual maintenance) are required, which will increase the operational costs of the library.	A building with all library spaces on one level was proposed. The site provided an opportunity for a lower level access (a similar arrangement is used in the Monona Library) and limited covered parking, which the Library Board viewed as an asset.
Avoiding location in a floodplain	There are three primary concerns with locating the library in a floodplain: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction of a library in a flood plain requires elevating the floor feet above the 100-year flood level. 2. Libraries are full of paper and electronic products, almost all of which are damaged by water. 3. If located in a floodplain, insurance will be costlier, increasing operational costs of the library. These may seem like small concerns, but if a new location is being sought, it does not make sense to the Library Board to relocate to a site with these issues.	The Hwy. 39 site is not in a floodplain, so this is not an issue.
Space for water retention	This is a stipulation in village building ordinances, and the Library Board does not wish to violate storm water ordinances or planning, even if a variance could be obtained.	Space for water retention meeting Durst Valley storm water standards was identified and marked on the site design for the west side site. Durst Valley storm water standards are more strict than those used by other locations in the village.

- 41. In a study of possible locations for an expanded library space that was conducted in the early 2000's, Glarner Park was highly rated as a possible location (because it was located downtown, was a suitably-sized parcel of land, the property was already owned by the Village, and the project would not involve demolition of an existing building). At that time the Library Board was told by the Village Board and Staff that Glarner Park was not an option and that there were floodway / flood plain issues relating to the property (Strand Engineering did a study of the Glarner Park property that reinforced this sometime in 2005 /2006). Then a few years ago, Glarner Park suddenly became an option for a library location. Why did this happen? Who suggested it? What about the floodway / flood plain issues?**

The recommendation for Glarner Park in May 2013 came from a Subcommittee comprised of both Library and Village board trustees, established by Village President Truttmann, to find a suitable downtown site. The park was identified and proposed to the Village and Library Boards as the best available option, and became the basis of the referendum question put to voters in 2014.

Storm water management is a challenge on Glarner Park. This concern limits the footprint and location of the proposed building on the site, and may be costly to solve. However, it is the opinion of the Village Engineer, architect, and civil engineer that a new library and required storm water retention features can fit on the site.

- 42. If Glarner Park – in its present state – would remain a ball field, are there improvements that would need to be made to it in order to continue using it as a ball field? What type of ball games could be played on an improved field? And how much would these improvements cost the Village? How would these improvements be paid for? Through fundraising?**

Since the village determines park use, it is appropriate for the village to assess Glarner Park's usefulness as a ball field, whether improvements are needed to continue its current use, develop an improved field, determine the associated costs, and develop a plan on how to pay for such improvements.

New Glarus is a generous community, and it seems reasonable that fundraising could be used to help offset the costs of ball field improvements. Ultimately, that determination must be made by the village.