**Library Expansion - Basement**

**Summary of Discussion with the Librarians**

**18 July 2022**

**Stove.** We discussed whether we needed to keep the stove.

We identified the use of the stove as primarily keeping casserole dishes warm for large functions. Patrons were not using the stove to cook meals.

An option if the stove was removed could be to buy a large microwave – one that would hold a casserole dish.

Removing the stove was also discussed with the thought of renovating the kitchen with new counters – and expanding the counter area if the stove was gone.

If the stove was removed the ventilation hood could be taken out as well. Librarians report that we lose a lot of heat through that in the winter.

It was also pointed out that we do not know what the needs of the Library may be 10 or 20 years in the future. Leaving the stove in place would preserve the option to use it. It is also the lease costly option.

**Open Space.**

We talked about leaving the basement open – to not put book stacks and other Library items there. The thought was it would reduce the overall cost of the expansion. It would also provide options for future uses as it would remain an open space.

Zoom rooms or small conference rooms. We thought that one or two of these small rooms could be built in the basement. But the conference room could be used for that purpose now. It does not see a lot of use other than meetings at night. The conference room would need to be updated.

If we kept the basement open, perhaps there could be a space for movies/TV viewing. With a larger TV and comfortable chairs that might be an attractive feature.

We talked about having accordion walls or some method of sectioning off the open space in the basement.

**Groups.**

Over the past few weeks we have identified several requirements that groups who use the basement would like to have.

Better lighting. Sewers and quilters in particular needed this. It is hard for them to see with the present lighting.

Flat surface area to work. All groups need a large flat area to spread out their projects. The current space with the tables is enough. We should include the space for that amount of surface area in the expansion.

Ventilation. There is none now. A new HVAC system would help.

Storage. All groups need it. We have some filing cabinets that are used now, they don’t look very good. Sewers keep some of their sewing machines in the Library storage area – we need to budget space to store those machines. A thought was to have good quality lockers/cabinets along one wall. They could be of varying sizes to accommodate the needs of each group. We would like extra lockers/storage area to allow for additional groups in the future. We also need to account for other items that need to be stored – toiletries/bathroom products and holiday decorations for example.

**Other items.**

Water bottle filler. Could we get one or two of these instead of a water fountain like we currently have?

Program room. We think this needs to have fixed walls. Would it be able to have a door that would allow easy access to the bathroom? Could we get a sink in the program room? This would solve the problem of kids needing to que in the bathroom to wash hands. Double doors would be helpful to allow easy access. Storage – we would need a lot of it. Perhaps a counter along one wall and full height storage along another. Installing windows that would look out into the rest of the library may make the room seem less confining and open.

Bathroom. Lot of interest in this. It needs to be large enough to accommodate a parent with a stroller. Large door as well.