

My name is Judy Huan-Ping Ling and I am the Lead Petitioner for Town Meeting Warrant **Article 18**, which requests \$175K for engineering and design work to renovate & expand our historic Library on Concord Rd. I filed this because Wayland voters deserve to have an affordable alternative to the proposed new Library on Main St., which would be more than twice as big and cost twice as much as improving our existing Library.

I support keeping our current Library because we would be investing in a beloved 118-year-old landmark, and be kinder to the environment, more aligned with the digital age, and financially more prudent. Here's why.



- 1. What happens to the current structure if we build a new library? We don't know.**
The 1899 Roby bequest gave the land and building to the town, with a deed restriction that the property be used as a public Library in perpetuity. Whether a court would lift the deed restriction is unknown, the process could take years. Even if another use is allowed, there are no plans & no cost estimates. Also unknown: cost of maintaining an unused current Library.
- 2. Can we fix known problems at the current Library? YES!** Article 18 asks for \$175k to design/engineer a 4,000 sq. ft. addition, more parking, and further mitigation of flooding, all designed to qualify for Aquifer and Wetlands permitting. With the additional space, we can move the Children's Room to the first floor and reconfigure existing floor plans to provide more space for staff, storage and public meetings. For more on Aquifer and Wetlands permitting, please see Aquifer & Wetlands Protection at 5 Concord Road in our website: <http://bit.ly/save5concord>
- 3. Is there a need for an expensive new structure AWAY FROM Wayland's center? No!**
Information today is digital, mobile and on our phones. Wayland's population growth is flat and expected to remain so. The Library's main floor is usually uncrowded, often vacant and underutilized. More than doubling the physical space doesn't make sense.
- 4. How much will the new building cost taxpayers? A lot of money.** The new Library will cost \$29.9 million in principal + interest (even AFTER state grant of \$10M). Article 18 caps renovation/expansion of the existing Library at \$9.5 million. With interest, it will cost \$15.7 Million. Keeping and improving the existing will save the town at least \$14.2 million. For a detailed analysis, please read the Wayland Library Fin Comm. March 2018 in our website: <http://bit.ly/save5concord>

The average Wayland PROPERTY tax bill will increase by **6.8%** this July - even before factoring in the new library's \$29.9 million cost. Another \$99.5 million in Capital Projects is projected over the next 5 years as outlined in Wayland's Capital Improvement Plan. Voting for the new Library will likely prevent us from making other improvements that are truly needed.

What can I do to preserve and protect Wayland's existing Library? There are three (3) actions you can take:

- 1. Vote NO on Ballot Question #1** at Town election on Tues. March 27, 2018. Question 1 would exclude debt for the new Library from the limits of Prop 2½.

2. Vote NO on Article 17 at Town Meeting, Tues. April 3, 2018*. Appropriates funds for building the proposed new Library.

3. Vote YES on Article 18 at Town Meeting Tues. April 3, 2018*. Article 18 would appropriate \$175K to design/engineer renovation/expansion of existing Library, capped at \$9.5M.



*Town Meeting begins on Monday, April 2nd, and Articles 17 and 18 will likely be voted on Tuesday, April 3rd. Your vote will make a **difference**. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please contact me at [Judy5Concord@gmail](mailto:Judy5Concord@gmail.com) Or, visit our website or FB page – www.facebook.com/5Concord.org/ Website: <http://bit.ly/save5concord>

Thank you,

Judy Huan-Ping Ling