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I. PROJECT AND CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

The West Tisbury Free Public Library preserves, enriches, and renews the intellectual, cultural, and social life of West Tisbury. But the current space is so outgrown and so poorly configured that the library can no longer serve the community effectively. The library badly needs to be expanded and remodeled. State, town, and private funds will be used to fund the necessary improvements. The award on July 14, 2011, of \$2.98 million from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners combined with the generous contributions of many donors has pushed the existing total of funds raised past the one-half mark. An aggressive campaign to raise the remaining private funds--\$1.5 million--by January 31, 2012, in order to meet the state's matching funds requirements, is underway.

The Library Serves the Community in Significant and Essential Ways

A vital, intellectually engaged, and community-oriented village

West Tisbury is an exceptionally vital, intellectually engaged, and community-oriented village; it is also remotely situated on an Island, growing and changing rapidly, and lacking in many services and institutions customarily found in more urban or mainland areas. The West Tisbury Library helps maintain the town's unique advantages and makes up for many services or facilities the town lacks.

The heart of the community

Located in the older residential and civic center of town, the library is the heart of the community. It is the only institution that is exclusively dedicated to serving the needs of the community of West Tisbury, a job it does so well that it attracts a large clientele from the rest of the Island as well. It's open to all at no cost, all year 'round and for long hours, centrally located and readily accessible. It serves every segment of the population, from young children and their mothers, to students and teens, young adults, the general population with every interest imaginable, seniors, and of course both seasonal and year-round residents and visitors.

Dedicated to perpetuating and renewing the intellectual and social capital of the community, the library helps create and sustain a community of readers, a body of well-informed residents and visitors, and townspeople and neighbors with well-developed interests and skills who understand and respect the varied values and convictions of others. The library provides a sense of place to reinforce community continuity and traditions. It serves as a haven for all who need a stopping point in town to read, to do homework and other tasks they can't do at home, and to meet and interact with the rest of their community. And it puts in the community's hands the resources they need to manage the challenges of a growing population and a changing world around them.

Principles to guide future operations

The library's Long-Range Planning process, on file with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), has identified the following broad principles to guide the library's future operations:

Current Topics and Titles and New Media: “Citizens of West Tisbury will have access to current fiction and non-fiction books [and] to new media formats to expand access to current literature.”

Lifelong Learning: “The library will offer a variety of learning opportunities for adults and children.”

The Library as Commons: “The library will provide a comfortable place for citizens of West Tisbury to meet and exchange ideas.”

In other words, the library is the place residents and visitors go for all sorts of information on any subject, for the latest book by a favorite author, to do research and for computer access, for children’s crafts and story hours, for extensive adult programming to meet every interest, and as a meeting place for friends, neighbors, and visitors. Where the community lacks services, the library fills in. It is our community college, our internet café, our source of public health information, our movie house, Blockbuster outlet, teen center, coffee house, and convention center. It is the town’s public forum, our all-purpose community center, our village family room.

The Community Makes High-Volume Use of the Library’s Collections, Programs, and Services

Eighty-nine percent of the town hold library cards

Eighty-nine percent of the town—2,760 individuals from a population of 3,079—hold library cards. Seasonal visitors, other Islanders, and off-Island patrons make up the rest of the library’s 9,309 cardholders. One thousand patrons visit the library on an average summer day; that number reached over 1,500 one day last year. Numbers are lower in winter, but the library is heavily used throughout the year. Last year, the library served just under 120,000 visitors in 176,186 separate transactions: 156,651 circulations, 966 interlibrary loans, 4,390 reserves, and 14,179 computer uses. Included also were 7,656 patrons who attended one or more of the 377 program activities the library sponsored.

The Library Provides High-Quality, Award-Winning Service to the Community

Five Star and Top Ten Ratings

For two years running, in 2009 and 2010, the Library Journal’s Index of Public Library Service has awarded the West Tisbury Free Public Library a coveted five-star rating. And in 2010 the Hannan American Public Library Ratings (HAPLR) Index named the library one of the top 10 in the nation among towns our size. These awards are based on comparison of hard figures such as circulation, square footage and budget. In other words, our prize-winning library is one that manages to provide the best public service with the fewest possible resources.

Use and Quality Are Becoming Compromised by Lack of Space and Sound Design

In light of the library’s many successes and its enormous expansion of services and patron usage, it has become clear that the current facilities are not adequate to continue serving patrons’ needs for intellectual enrichment and social interaction, nor can it continue to provide the broad range of services this community requires. The overcrowded conditions and spaces as they are configured have begun to hinder the ability of the staff to serve current needs, and there is no room to expand services to meet today’s needs, leaving aside those further into the future.

A library under pressure

For example, circulation grew by a factor of 27 between 1999 and fiscal 2009, from 5,320 to 144,117. Each year circulation jumps on average 30%. Holdings of 56,871 items, largest of the Island libraries, must be ruthlessly pruned for new acquisitions; many older but still valuable items must be cast off. Children's books and programs are crammed into two overstuffed rooms, one of them in a basement and lacking toilet facilities, difficult to evacuate in times of fire or other emergency and an impediment to effective monitoring. Community programs are held in the periodicals room, closing it off to regular users, and often must turn away would-be participants for lack of space. Adults, young adults, teens, the circulation desk, and the computer stations compete for space within one common area. The one public lavatory is inadequate to handle summer crowds. Stacks are situated in a cluster of dingy rooms carved out of the basement. Staff lack workspace, privacy, space for technical and interlibrary loan services, a kitchen area and place to break, all their work taking place behind an all-purpose and crowded circulation desk. The building is poorly ventilated and has poor climate control; it lacks an airlock; and access between the basement and ground floor is provided by a stairway and elevator that are both uncomfortable and unsafe.

Town Space Needs Committee recommends more space, better facilities

The West Tisbury Space Needs Committee in 2007 reported the need for an additional 5,500 square feet of space to serve a projected design population of 8,353. The Town Visioning and Long Range Planning 2004-2009 and 2009-2014 reiterated the important role the library plays in the community and the need for key improvements. Library surveys conducted in recent years have consistently shown that patrons value the library highly but want larger and remodeled space. A committee recently formed by the Library Trustees has identified the need for, among a larger list:

- *A Children's Room on one level.* The Children's Room is now split between two floors connected by a potentially hazardous stairway
- *Additional bathrooms.* The existing restroom is inadequate, un-ventilated, usable by only one person at a time, and shared by all genders and ages
- *Additional shelf space.* The bulk of the collection is housed in the basement, never intended for public use; tight shelf space forces tough choices and severe weeding
- *Dedicated quiet space.* Certain library activities demand confidentiality, privacy, and concentration, and no areas now provide this
- *Community program space.* Movies, lectures, workshops and readings are now held in the periodical room, where space must be cleared by removing tables and displacing patrons.

The Expansion Will Have a Positive Impact on the Library and Community for Decades to Come

The proposed expansion will ensure that the library can continue to serve the community with essential programs and services to:

Engage children and parents and caregivers at an early age in learning to read and to love reading. Nearly half the library's book circulation is from the children's collection. Saturday reading hours and various crafts and activities attract hundreds of children and adults annually. A summer book reading program encourages and rewards children for reading. ***The expansion will reunite the children's area on a single floor, create more room for its comprehensive collection, provide for greater security and monitoring, and make age-appropriate bathroom facilities available.***

Stimulate reading for pleasure and personal achievement with dedicated collections for young adults and older readers. Eighty-nine percent of the town holds library cards. Since 1997, the number of cardholders has increased 1000%! West Tisbury's has the largest annual circulation of all Island libraries in the second-smallest building. The book collection holds large numbers of favorite fiction and non-fiction books but must be pruned rigorously to make room for new acquisitions. Reading clubs, book discussions, authors' presentations, and other literary programs give readers opportunities for serious appreciation of their books and reading. ***The expansion will create dedicated, quiet spaces for young adults and adults, increase stack capacity to handle the collection, and provide suitable space for literary discussion and other meetings.***

Help patrons of all ages meet their needs for and interests in entertainment, reference, job search and professional development, and current information. Patrons have access to a large, current collection of DVDs, reference materials across many subjects, and subscriptions to a large variety of newspapers and periodicals. Librarians assist with reference and interlibrary loan to bring the world of information to the reader. ***The expansion will allow unimpeded access to the periodicals and reference collection by creating a separate program space, permit the expansion of the DVD and audio-book collection, add computer terminals, and give the librarians ample space to work and consult with patrons.***

Connect to the world of electronic information and resources at modern computers with speedy access to the internet. The library must provide well-equipped computer stations to give patrons ready on-site access to the universe of the written word and video archives. ***The expansion will make room for an adequate number of state-of-the-art computer terminals in a space reserved for their use.***

Provide school students with an orderly, well-equipped work space to do homework and wait for their parents after school and work. Many students in the Chilmark and West Tisbury schools stop at the library to do homework and make good use of their afternoons while waiting for parents to finish work. Some students lack supportive environments, work space, computers and internet at home. The library must give them all an orderly and well-equipped spot for work, study, and reading. ***The expansion will offer students the desk and table space, computer equipment, quiet areas, and materials they need for homework and productive reading and inquiry.***

Bring the newest technological innovations and a vastly expanded range of electronic materials to the reader. The library works hard to stay abreast of the technology curve so patrons have full access to wireless technology, high-speed internet, eBooks, and downloadable media. Anything available on the internet should be available to them, putting materials far in excess of the library's physical holdings always in reach. ***The expansion will ensure that the library can stay abreast of the technology and collections of the electronic age.***

Provide a gathering spot and full range of programs where the community can meet, learn, discuss, and enjoy themselves together. West Tisbury is a somewhat isolated rural community, with few sidewalks, very few public amenities, no community center, and few local associations to bring people into contact. The library is in effect all these things to the community. Music, arts, crafts, town issues, public affairs, readings, literary discussions, Lyme and Alzheimer's, and many other topics are the focus of programs offered in response to patron requests. ***The expansion will provide dedicated program and meeting space, freeing the periodicals and other spaces for their intended uses, and making room for more citizens and a greater variety of community programs.***

*Equip residents to deal successfully with the effects of change in their own community and the larger world. Low earnings, immigration, and demographic change have an impact on the town: many residents use the library for services they can't afford or find elsewhere, the collection and programs must respond to a shifting clientele, and growing diversity in values and perspectives makes the integrating effect of a common meeting place and services increasingly beneficial. **The expansion will provide room and flexibility the librarians need to provide the collection, equipment, and programs required of a growing population in a changing community and world.***

These are the immediate effects of the building expansion on the library services and facility. As inherently valuable as these effects are, it's important to recognize the larger benefits to the community to be gained from an expanded and renovated library, one able—finally—to meet the community's many needs. For decades to come:

- Early readers will learn to read and develop a love of reading before entering school, and older students will appreciate reading not only as an academic tool but more importantly as their ticket to self-discovery and limitless travel in the imaginative world of books;
- School students will find greater satisfaction in their studies and develop more mature interests in learning;
- Young adults will enter their adult lives with skills, habits, and love of reading nurtured in both school and library that they need to succeed in further education, work, and community life, as well as to engage with the large changes to their world inevitably ahead;
- Literate and discriminating citizens will continue to vote at Town Meeting and contribute to the characteristic vitality and spirit of the town;
- Citizens with more fully realized personal, professional, and community interests will fulfill their potential and make important contributions to their families and community;
- Readers, students, workers, retirees and others whose homes do not provide the quiet, comfort, equipment, work space, or resources they need will have found in the library the tools and environment they need to be happier and more productive;
- The essence of community—common purpose and mutual respect shaped from diverse interests and values and informed by sound information—will continue to flourish and meet the challenges of the future.

II. FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The Library Expansion Will Be Funded By a Combination of State, Town, and Foundation (Private) Donations

The total estimated cost of the expansion is \$6.0 million. This amount will be funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' (MBLC) grant of \$2.98 million and town and foundation funds of approximately \$1.5 million each.

The state grant, one of only eight awarded to towns in the Commonwealth, was made to West Tisbury on July 14, 2011. *This grant is provisional, depending on the library's ability to match these funds by January 31, 2012.* (The state does leave open the possibility of granting an extension of up to six months for making the required match.) Matching funds must be in cash or liquid assets; that is, any pledges must have been fulfilled by the deadline. *The requirement to match the grant and the deadline place a considerable degree of urgency on the ability to secure town funds and to meet the foundation goal for private donations.*

\$1.5 million will be requested from the town at Town Meeting in April, 2012. The library Trustees are working closely with town officials to prepare for this request. The town's overwhelming vote to approve related library articles placed before them at Town Meeting in April 2011 is indicative of the broad degree of town support for the library expansion and we believe augurs well for the 2012 vote.

The award of the MBLC grant has presented the library with an unusually attractive opportunity. Whereas initial town plans called for building in 2016 with town and private donors each bearing \$2.6 million or more in costs, the unanticipated availability of state grant funds has created a dramatically changed scenario. With the \$6.0 million overall funding target, the state's \$2.98 million construction grant reduces the amount of private (foundation) and town contributions to approximately \$1.5M each. (Discussions between library Trustees and town concluded that the town could afford to share one-quarter of the overall costs under the accelerated building and debt schedule in this scenario.) Building can begin in 2013 with no greater overall town debt load and at lower cost to both town and foundation.

This scenario presents an especially attractive opportunity for private donors to leverage their contributions. Each privately donated dollar will make possible the expenditure of an additional three dollars in state and town funds; conversely, no state and town funds can be raised or spent without the availability of the private funds. Thus, each dollar the foundation raises represents a total of three dollars in the end.

The campaign to raise foundation funds was launched in August 2010. The Foundation goal is for every West Tisbury household, all cardholders, and all who love this library and value libraries and books in general to make some form of contribution to the expansion. Townspeople have responded generously to date with both monetary and in-kind contributions. (In addition, voters at 2010 Town Meeting overwhelmingly approved warrant articles authorizing renovation and expansion of the library and selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend state grant funds for that purpose.)

The foundation is making every effort to cover campaign expenses—for advertising, materials, and fund-raising events—with in-kind contributions and sponsorships so that 100% of every campaign contribution can be dedicated entirely to the cost of the library expansion.

The challenge ahead is to reach all potential donors and in particular to solicit the leadership and major gifts needed to reach the overall goal. (See graphic of gift pyramid in Appendices.)

Naming Legacy Opportunities Can Be Used to Honor or Hold in Memory

In addition to the gift levels noted in a later section, naming opportunities exist to leave a lasting legacy of individual generosity and to honor or memorialize a loved one or some other individual especially important to the donor, all of which will be visibly and permanently recognized:

Multi-Purpose Program Room	500,000
Adult Periodicals/Browsing Area	300,000
Children’s Area—Toddlers and Early Readers	300,000
Young Adults Area	300,000
School Age Area	300,000
Lobby/Circulation Desk Area	250,000
Adult Reference/Quiet Reading/Stacks Area	200,000
Friends Room	150,000
Conference Room	100,000
Adult Reading Terrace (Lower Reading Garden)(and benches, etc.)	100,000
Upper (South) Reading Garden (and tables, etc.)	100,000
Study Room 1	50,000
Study Room 2	50,000
Children’s Reading Porch	50,000

Many other opportunities for naming at lower levels will be available once the architectural plans are made final:

Little Alley’s Playhouse, Staff Workroom and Kitchenette, Technical Services Area, Kitchen, Benches (Adult Terrace) (2), Bricks, Walls, and Other Small Outdoor Items, Furniture and Equipment, Director’s Office, Children’s Librarian’s Office.

Gift at Different Levels Will Be Given Public Recognition

Recognition will be given to donations and pledges made to the West Tisbury Library Foundation, Inc. according to the following structure:

Director’s Circle	
Platinum	\$500,000 and higher
Gold	\$300,000 to 499,000
Silver	\$100,000 to 299,999

Benefactor	\$ 50,000 to \$99,999
Patron	\$ 25,000 to \$49,999
Advocate	\$ 10,000 to \$24,999
Contributor	\$ 5,000 to \$9,999
Donor	\$ 2,500 to \$4,999
Supporter	\$ 1,000 to \$2,499
Backer	\$ 500 to \$999
Fan	\$ 250 to \$499
Groundbreaker	\$ 1 to \$249

The West Tisbury Library Foundation, Inc., Provides Institutional Capacity and Leadership

The West Tisbury Library Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)3 corporation chartered in 2010 to provide specialized support to the library. The Foundation augments town and state funds with private donations on a significant scale, offering professional money management and tax advantages along with a broad range of ways of giving. Immediate goals are to support the library expansion and to create an endowment for long-term financial stability. There are eleven foundation members drawn from the community. Two-time Pulitzer-prize winner David McCullough serves as honorary foundation chair. Numerous other advisors, committee members, and volunteers donate time and expertise to foundation business.

III. BUILDING OVERVIEW AND PLANS

Planning, Building, and Financing the Proposed Expansion Are Underway

The town of West Tisbury is committed to intelligent, cost-effective, affordable growth meeting the needs of the community; planning is based on rigorous, objective analysis of the town's needs and assessment of its fiscal capacity. In 2007 the town's Space Needs Committee looked 20 years into the future and set a timetable for such imperatives as the Town Hall renovation (now complete), a new police station, and the expansion of the library. Capital expenses for these and other important projects are kept level and affordable by the work of the Capital Improvements Committee. West Tisbury has fully funded its public pension commitments into the future and S&P gives the town a *AA Stable* bond rating.

The Library Building Committee is staffed by highly qualified volunteer town residents including an economist, two builders, and an architect, among others. This committee has worked since early 2010 to determine building specifications, retain an owner's project agent, hire the firm of Oudens Ello Architecture, and oversee the design and costing of plans for the expansion. Over the course of six project meetings, the architects have presented plans for a 13,312 sq. ft. library that fully meets the needs for expansion and rigorous environmental standards while retaining the cozy, rural feeling patrons value so highly.

(Architects' schematics of preliminary plans, a space comparison, and a time-chart of the overall planning and building process are provided in the appended material.)

IV. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How can I be sure my money goes toward costs of expansion and remodeling and not for administrative and overhead costs?

The library foundation is composed entirely of volunteers and operates with no overhead, staff, or costs. Foundation members donate skills, expertise, and services, so that almost all our products—appeal letters, brochures, graphics, DVDs, posters and banners, video archives, and website—are researched, produced, and printed or mounted by members at no cost to the foundation. Numerous fund-raising and informational special events, including house parties, artists’ receptions, a writer’s series, a 600-seat summer presentation by David McCullough, and many others are donated by generous townspeople, supported with unreimbursed volunteer services, underwritten by sponsors, with a very few items provided at minimal cost. Prospective donors can be assured that their contributions will go directly to the cost of the building project, or, if our fund-raising goal is surpassed, to the library endowment.

2. Can I make my donation in honor or in memory of a loved one or someone else important to me?

Donations can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one or someone else important to the donor. Several naming opportunities are available to create a tangible and lasting legacy. The foundation will be glad to discuss these opportunities with prospective donors and look for a suitable match with donor interests. (Please see Section II, Naming Legacy Opportunities.)

3. What is the schedule for construction, and what will I do for library access during the construction period?

Construction will begin in spring of 2013, and the renovated/expanded facility is slated to open in November of 2014. The Library Building Committee is currently exploring options for temporary space during the construction period to ensure the least interruption in access to patrons.

4. After paying for the new town hall and school renovations, and with the prospect of a new police station, can the town afford to expand and renovate the library?

The West Tisbury Space Needs Committee in 2007 projected a construction start date of 2016. The town’s share of the cost was to be \$2.6 million, with the remaining \$2.7 to be raised privately. Now that the state has granted the town almost \$3 million toward the library expansion, the town will be responsible for contributing a quarter share, or \$1.5 million, and the foundation will also contribute a quarter share, another \$1.5 million. Town costs are dramatically decreased. For this reason, the construction schedule can be advanced a full three years to without increasing the town’s debt obligation as a percentage of the overall town budget.

5. I like my library the way it is, and I’m afraid the expansion will spoil the comfortable, cozy, and friendly library I love. How can I be sure it won’t?

It’s important to acknowledge at the start that the library as it is can no longer effectively serve the library’s service population, which has grown exponentially since the current facility opened in 1993. The building’s limited size and space configuration severely hamper development and management of a strong collection and delivery of a full range of programs and services to all who want them. Inadequate space for the people who use and work in the library puts undue stress on staff and patrons alike.

Expansion can be done in a way that preserves the service, atmosphere, and sense of place that people now treasure. The Library Building Committee and Oudens Ello Architects have prepared initial specifications and designs that provide the necessary new space while holding true to the character of the present library. We will continue to solicit input throughout the design phase to ensure that the final design is fully responsive to residents and patrons.

6. I like libraries to be about books, without computers, program activities, and the business of many people coming and going. Will expanding the library change the character and focus of the library?

The library, its staff and trustees remain firmly committed to the future of physical books. Expansion should enable the library to be more centered on books, as room for an expanded collection—and one more easily browsed and stocked—is available. And the greater space will be designed to separate functions, with individual areas dedicated to circulation, computers, children, teens and young adults, adults, periodicals and program activities. The library will continue to provide Internet access, workspace for homework, reading, or job a search, and a diverse offering of programs and activities that bring people together—those essential services in a relatively isolated rural community with few other services and amenities citizens in more urban areas take for granted—but there will be more room for them and these activities will be able to be conducted in dedicated spaces.

7. I love computers and Kindles. With the explosion of the internet, e-books, and social networking, aren't traditional libraries unnecessary? Can't the library easily just become an electronic and virtual station without expanding?

Access to the internet and digital materials is already an important part of the library services. In fact, the need to provide space for computers, high-speed internet access, and digital materials has required reconfiguring library space in recent years (the current building was designed prior to the internet and digital boom). Much more must be done to make the most of these technologies and to prepare for even greater developments to come.

Our renovated library will include an infrastructure of high-speed switches, routers and cabling to provide robust Internet access via library computers as well as wireless hotspots. Internet-connected PCs will be available for patrons and staff to conduct research, search for jobs, or participate in on-line learning programs such as webcasts and podcasts or on-line college classes. The building will be in an infrastructure-ready state for the Open Cape Broadband Project, which promises ultra-high speed access suitable for future applications such as media streaming and telepresence. Current plans assure that the expanded library will be built to be as flexible as possible, maximizing internet and wireless access, with maximum distribution of cabling and portals.

The renovated and expanded library will be designed and equipped to support wireless technology, high-speed internet, e-books and downloadable media, and will be flexibly designed and equipped to permit adaptation to new developments that can't now be defined. As e-books grow increasingly popular, the library is exploring ways to offer eBook loans to cardholders through the library's website. Access to eBooks and downloadable materials on loan will continue to grow as a part of the library's services.

Still, American Association of Publishers data show that the hardcopy book is not dead. Book sales across all platforms (hardcopy, eBooks, and other digital platforms like audio) grew substantially in 2010

over 2009; the greatest growth was in eBooks, but hardcopy sales remained level, showing that interest in them was not declining

Demand for tangible books at the library is strong. If anything, it seems that the development of the internet and eBooks has also stimulated interest in hard-copy books as well. The internet, Google and other search engines, and the resulting nearly limitless access to the written word, along with YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and other forms of social networking have indeed stirred up a storm of electronic communication—for which the library will be equipped—but at the same time, they have stimulated the public’s need for access to books, to valid, reliable, and timely information, to reference and research, and to expertise and opinion offered in face-to-face, interactive programs.

Poet Laureate Charles Simic describes the value of books in the internet age thus: “... [K]ids now have the Internet to do their reading and school work. It's not the same thing. As any teacher who recalls the time when students still went to libraries and read books could tell him, study and reflection come more naturally to someone bent over a book. Seeing others, too, absorbed in their reading, holding up or pressing down on different-looking books, some intimidating in their appearance, others inviting, makes one a participant in one of the oldest and most noble human activities. Yes, reading books is a slow, time-consuming, and often tedious process. In comparison, surfing the Internet is a quick, distracting activity in which one searches for a specific subject, finds it, and then reads about it—often by skipping a great deal of material and absorbing only pertinent fragments. Books require patience, sustained attention to what is on the page, and frequent rest periods for reverie, so that the meaning of what we are reading settles in and makes its full impact.”

8. How can we minimize the expansion’s effect on the environment?

From the beginning, this expansion and renovation project has been planned as a model of low-impact construction. Sustainability consultant Marc Rosenbaum has been working with the Building Committee since Day One to reduce the building’s carbon footprint, assure higher efficiency, and lower operating costs. 75% of demolition and construction waste will be recycled or reused. Landscaping will include drought-tolerant plants watered with rainwater from a collection tank. Water use will be reduced through metered faucets and dual-flush toilets. The benefits of building the Island’s first LEED-certified municipal building will have deeper repercussions for shaping local thought about environmentally sensitive building: a “green” library will also serve as a teaching model for local builders and designers. Among the state-of-the-art features being considered are:

- Quad-glazed windows, super-insulated walls
- VOC-free paint (Volatile Organic Compounds)
- Systems to optimize HVAC performance, water & energy use
- Heat & moisture recovery ventilation
- Massive array of photovoltaic (PV) panels on roof
- No chlorofluorocarbons in air conditioning, no halon gases in fire suppression system

9. Was the size of this design dictated by state requirements for the grant?

No. The size of the proposed expansion was based on the service population, projected growth, collection size, and several other sound and established benchmarks. It is corroborated strongly by two independent studies that existed long before the state grant became available. The 2007 Space Needs Committee report indicated that the library needed an additional 5,500 square feet and renovation of

existing space to meet the library functions. The Gale Associates Feasibility Study in 2003 was based on a Building Committee recommendation to plan for a library of 16,000 square feet at full build-out. The proposed library design now enlarges the current 5,640 square feet to a total of 13,312. This figure is based upon the West Tisbury Free Public Library Building Program (January 2010) and the preliminary building designs developed in response to this report by Oudens Ello Architects in early 2011. This resulting expansion is somewhat larger than the Space Needs Committee recommendation of four years ago and considerably smaller than was recommended in the earlier Gale Associates feasibility study.

10. *Won't an expanded library cost more to staff, operate, maintain, etc.?*

The expanded and remodeled library will actually offer many cost advantages over the present structure. Improved organization of space and clear sight lines will mean that the expanded library will operate with the *same number of staff* currently needed to manage the library. Green design features will ensure more efficient heating and cooling. This library will be one of the few LEED certified libraries in the state and the first such municipal building on the Island. An array of roof-top photovoltaic cells will generate a high return on use of electricity and result in some refunds. Operating costs per square foot should be dramatically lower in the expanded/renovated facility.

In spring of 2011, the Town of West Tisbury commissioned EMG Corp. of Hunt Valley, Maryland, to conduct an audit of town facilities and projected maintenance needs for the next 20 years. The resulting Replacement Reserves Cost Estimate for the current building, which is now nearly two decades old, projects \$296,024 in repairs and replacement expenses. The renovation/expansion project will completely absorb these costs, which would have been the natural result of maintaining an aging facility. The bottom line: although a larger building does cost more to maintain than a smaller one, a newer building is cheaper to repair than an older one.

11. *Isn't it inefficient for each town to have its own library? Why not combine them all for a more efficient operation?*

As elsewhere in the state, Martha's Vineyard towns are proud of their New England tradition of town government and of the local values and character that define each community. The town library is an essential part of each community and properly reflects the unique character of its community. Our West Tisbury library houses a collection consistent with reader interest; library staff greet many patrons by name and are familiar with their tastes; the large children's collection and program reflects the town's family orientation and commitment to learning to love to read at a young age; and the extensive program activities are provided on a range of topics with significance to our community, and primarily in response to patron requests.

Some reduction of costs might be achievable through Island-wide consolidation, but any efficiencies would be lost to patrons who must travel farther and sacrifice the responsiveness and personal ties to the library they now enjoy. The usefulness and importance of a library to a community is quickly reduced when the facility becomes hard to reach. Many people to whom the library is a lifeline, especially the very old and the very young, depend on others for transportation. Proximity and accessibility is so important to the essential role of a public library that large cities are sprinkled with many neighborhood libraries. Even Falmouth has five.

V. LIBRARY STATISTICS: HOW OUR LIBRARY COMPARES

The West Tisbury has the highest circulation and largest collection of any of the Island town libraries, yet it has the next smallest facility, after Aquinnah. The data below show how our library compares with others on Martha's Vineyard (2010 figures).

Highest annual circulation:

- *West Tisbury – 161,598*
- Oak Bluffs — 11,021
- Tisbury — 108,120
- Chilmark – 65,364
- Edgartown – 55,703
- Aquinnah – 11,059

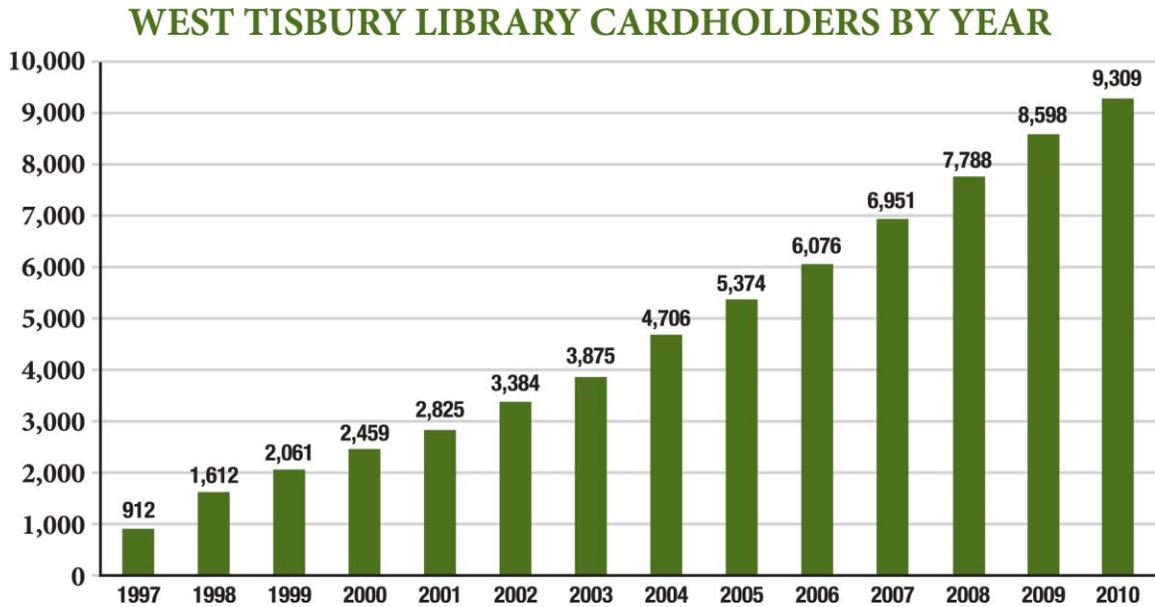
Largest collection:

- *West Tisbury – 56,871*
- Tisbury – 49,343
- Oak Bluffs — 41,725
- Edgartown — 40,725
- Chilmark – 33,691
- Aquinnah – 8,649

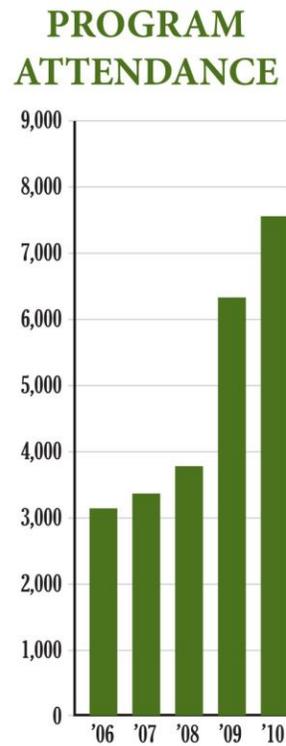
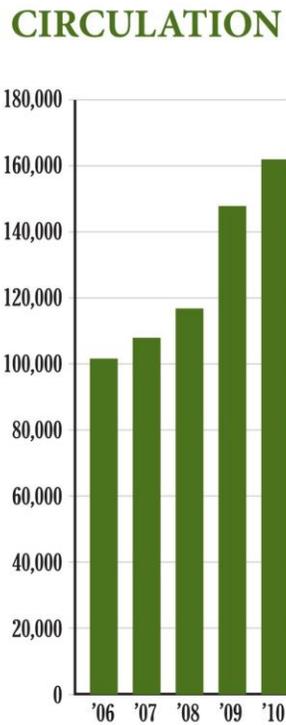
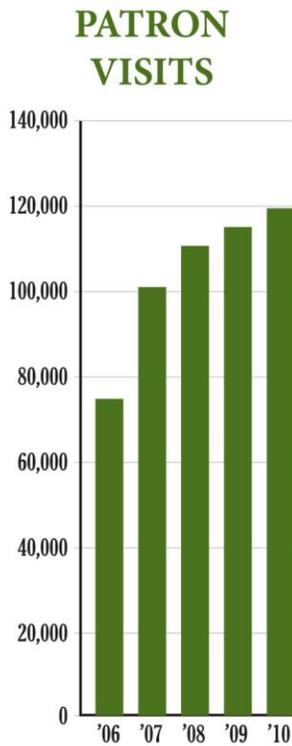
Second-smallest facility (square feet):

- Oak Bluffs – 18,000
- Tisbury – 9,000
- Chilmark – 7,658
- Edgartown – 7,000
- *West Tisbury – 5,640*
- Aquinnah – 600

Increase in cardholders since 1997 — over 1000% growth:



Demand for library services:



VI. WHAT LIBRARY PATRONS AND OTHER LIBRARY-LOVERS SAY

Patrons and others who love libraries provide in their own words strong testimonials in favor of the West Tisbury library and libraries overall:

“This library is the best thing that happened to our family this summer!” Mother of three young children at the end of their summer season.

“I could not live without this library, literally.” Senior who volunteers twice a week and uses the library most afternoons.

“While the Vineyard’s beautiful beaches and prominent people get the most attention, I have always found the West Tisbury Library to be one of the Island’s best assets.” Young summer resident and self-described “lifelong patron.”

“The library is the first place our family heads for from the boat, before shopping for food and unlocking our front door.” West Tisbury summer resident.

The West Tisbury library is in many ways as essential to community life as the hospital.” West Tisbury resident and former hospital trustee.

“If you love your community, you must love your library.” David McCullough, two-time Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award Winner, West Tisbury resident, and West Tisbury Library Foundation Honorary Chairman.

“No matter how modest its building or its holdings, in many parts of this country a municipal library is often the only place where books in large number on every imaginable subject can be found, where both grownups and children are welcome to sit and read in peace, free of whatever distractions and aggravations await them outside. Like many other Americans of my generation, I owe much of my knowledge to thousands of books I withdrew from public libraries over a lifetime. I remember the sense of awe I felt as a teenager when I realized I could roam among the shelves, take down any book I wanted, examine it at my leisure at one of the library tables, and if it struck my fancy, bring it home. Not just some thriller or serious novel, but also big art books and recordings of everything from jazz to operas and symphonies.” Charles Simic, poet, essayist, and translator, winner of Pulitzer Prize and MacArthur Fellowship.

VII. HOW YOU CAN HELP

The foundation asks for the support of everyone who uses and loves the West Tisbury library, of all who value and appreciate West Tisbury's quality of life, and of "book" lovers everywhere. Through the remaining months of 2011 and into 2012, many hands are needed to carry out the work of the foundation: events, publicity, fund-raising, and a lot of associated documentation and record-keeping. Volunteers of all stripes are invited and welcome. We encourage town voters to familiarize themselves with the campaign and plans for the expansion and to make their voices heard in the public forums or by contacting library staff and Trustees or Foundation members. Of course, the chief purpose of the foundation and its campaign is to raise funds needed for the expansion. The goal of \$1.5 million will not be reached without the generous donations of many, many people and leadership and major gifts from those able to make them. Much additional information about the library expansion and capital campaign and instructions for making a donation are provided on the Foundation website at www.wtlibraryfoundation.org.