

West Branch Library Update

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City of Somerville
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone



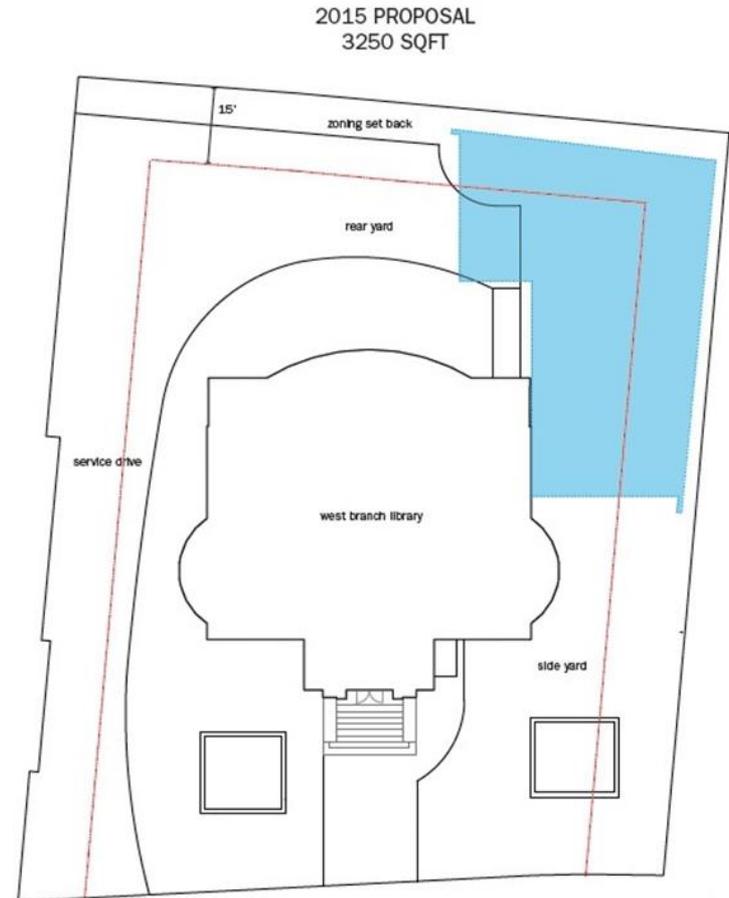
West Branch Library – 2015 Proposal

Public Process:

In the spring of 2015, the City began a planning effort with Library Staff, Trustees, Friends and Design lab Architects to renovate the West Branch Library. A series of community visioning workshops were held over the spring and summer of 2015 to solicit community input. A design approach incorporating the community feedback was presented to the community in late 2015.

Programmatic highlights of the design included:

- A completely restored, renovated and fully accessible existing building:
 - *Main Level: Browsing, Circulation and Historic Reading Rooms.*
 - *Upper Level: Dedicated Children's Program Space & Staff Spaces.*
 - *Lower Level: Primary Collection and Dedicated Maker Space .*
- New Addition, which included:
 - *New Accessible Entry Lobby with Elevator.*
 - *New Restrooms.*
 - *New Dedicated Community Room which could function independently from the Library.*



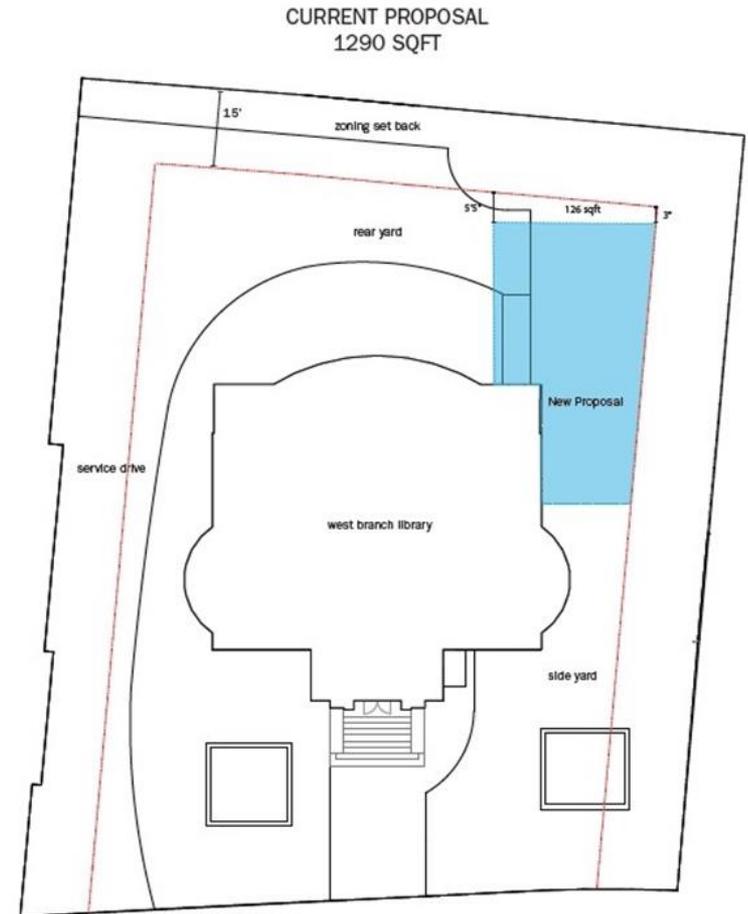
West Branch Library – 2017 Proposal

Public Process:

In early 2016, the City heard concerns from some community members about the size and footprint of the new addition. The footprint of the proposed addition was within the zoning setbacks and thus would have required obtaining a variance. After community discussion, it was ultimately determined that an addition with a reduced footprint completely outside of zoning setbacks should be considered. Throughout 2017, the City reviewed various design strategies with a reduced addition. Working with the Library Staff, the design team focused on incorporating a significant amount of flexible meeting space within the existing historic building to both respond to the community's desire for more programmatic space and keep the addition outside the zoning setbacks. In early 2018, a community meeting was held to present a revised addition scheme.

Programmatic highlights of the design included:

- A completely restored, renovated and fully accessible existing building:
 - *Main Level: Browsing, Circulation and Historic Reading Rooms.*
 - *Upper Level: Dedicated Children's Program Space & Staff Spaces.*
 - *Lower Level: Primary Collection, Small Meeting Rooms and Community Multi-Purpose Space*
- New Addition, which included:
 - *New Accessible Entry Lobby with Elevator.*
 - *New Restrooms.*
 - *Expanded Lobby Space which can support informal gatherings, events and programs.*



West Branch Library – Next Steps

- Design
- Permitting process
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Approvals
- Bidding
- Construction