

EXCITING NEWS -Town to Purchase Site for New Library!

DURHAM — A decade in the works, the town this week announced it has agreed to purchase land on Madbury Road for a new library. The \$600,000 transaction will be paid with private donations raised by the Durham Public Library Board of Trustees.

The three-acre site at 49 Madbury Road includes a private home with a brick facade that will be integrated into the new building. It is within walking distance of downtown and Oyster River Middle School.



Trustees, Friends, library staff, Council members, and supporters visit the Dimambro property.

The current library is located in the Mill Plaza, where it has been in operation since its split from the University of New Hampshire Library in 1997.

"More than a decade ago, the town decided it needed its own library, separate from the university, to serve a broader array of community interests," said Town Administrator Todd Selig, in a statement. "A good town library is an invaluable asset both to residents and businesses."

The home was owned by Arthur DiMambro, a retired physician and artist. Town officials said he will donate several paintings for the new building.

"This is an exciting development for the Town," said board Chairman Doug Bencks, in a statement. "We've been searching for years for an ideal site that is close to the schools and to the downtown business area, has plenty of parking, and is large enough for a library. This site meets all those criteria and more."

The money paid for the site includes \$100,000 from an anonymous donor.

Within the next few weeks, the property will undergo a "due diligence" inspection to ensure there are no impediments to construction. As that work progresses, the Town Council will hold a public hearing.

Bencks said the next steps are to commission a design and begin an intensive fundraising campaign to help pay for construction.