Variance Request Form

Commissioner’s Regulation 90.2 - Standards for Registration of Public, Free Association and Indian Libraries

Instructions: Use this form to request a variance from the requirements of Commissioner’s Regulations 90.2. Standards for Registration of Public, Free Association and Indian Libraries (effective January 29, 1999). If the library is not in compliance with one or more of these Standards, request a variance on a separate form for each standard with which the library fails to comply. The Library Director, the Library Board President, the System Director and the System Board President sign each variance request form. Attach any information that will strengthen the request. Libraries must return this form directly to their Public Library System who will review and forward to the New York State Library. No variance granted by the New York State Library shall be deemed to relieve a public, free association or Indian library of any obligation imposed by any other provision of federal or state law.

1. Library Information (Name of library, contact person, phone number)
   WOODSTOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
   Ivy Goucher, Director (845) 679-2213

2a. Request for Variance from Standard Number: 8
b. What is current status? (Please attach explanation.)

3. Circumstances Over Which the Library Has No Control That Are Barriers to Compliance. Explain in detail on a separate sheet the circumstances that prevent the library from meeting this standard of service as set forth in Commissioner’s Regulations 90.2. Attach documentation to demonstrate that the library has no control over the circumstances.

4. Plan for Compliance. Describe in detail on a separate sheet the library’s plan for meeting this requirement before December 31st of this year. (Please attach documentation.)

Library Director Date

Library Board President Date

System Comment and Review: Variance request

☐ may be approvable
☐ may not be approvable

(Please include explanation.)

This variance request was reviewed at the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the System.

System Director Date System Board President Date

FOR SED USE ONLY: Variance request is approvable; Variance granted until:

☐ Variance request is not approvable because:

Reviewed By:
2.a: Request for variance from standard number:

8 Maintains a facility that addresses community needs, as outlined in the library's long-range plan of service, including adequate space, seating, power infrastructure, and data infrastructure.

2.b: What is the current status?

The Woodstock Public Library District’s most recent Plan of Service (2022 - 2026) calls for several types of collaborative, program, and work spaces that the current library building cannot accommodate. In particular, it mentions the need for spaces that allow for programming, interaction, and collaboration without disturbing other library functions. The current building is small (approximately 4,000 square feet) and its floor plan doesn’t allow for a dedicated program space. Any programming is held in the reading rooms of the library, and noise travels throughout the building. A meeting space on the second floor is only accessible by stairway, so is not feasible for use by older patrons or anyone who has difficulty climbing stairs. There is also little space for seating—for researchers, casual readers, and program attendees—because of the overall cramped nature of the building.

The Plan of Service also calls for increased access to the internet and professional-level programs without disturbing other library functions. This is also not feasible in the current building, given the layout of the building and its outdated data infrastructure. Power outages are not uncommon, and there is no back-up generator to ensure continuing service during such outages.

3. Circumstances over which the library has no control that are barriers to compliance.

Multiple additions have been added to the current library facility over the years, but it has reached an age where structural problems, mold, poor insulation, and non-ADA compliance have necessitated a new library building. The library’s board of trustees proposed a new structure on the existing site through a bond measure in 2020, but this initiative lost by 11 votes. Until we can get a bond vote passed to build or move into a new library, we are stuck with this current building.


A new bond vote will be held in the spring of 2022 to purchase and repurpose an existing building in Woodstock to house the library. This building is roughly 12,000 square feet and will have, in addition to stacks and reading rooms, separate spaces for collaborative work, one-on-one tutoring, and group programming. Seating for casual reading, programming, and study is spread throughout the building.

Additionally, the building is already outfitted with high-speed fiber-optic internet, ensuring that patrons will have adequate download and upload speeds while using the library’s wife and desktop computers. The building also has a generator and solar panels, allowing for uninterrupted power to the building. The plans for that project are attached.
Planning

Woodstock Library Relocation

An Exciting Opportunity

10 Dixon Avenue

Since late 2020 trustees have worked with Miller/Howard Investments on the feasibility of purchasing 10 Dixon Avenue, an office building in Bearsville, to transform it into the Library Facility that Woodstockers have asked for.

Draft plans fit the Library architectural program into the current footprint at 10 Dixon Avenue. Marty Nystrom, on a pro bono basis, is working closely with the Library Director, Facilities Chair Howard Kagan, and library staff to create the new floor plan for the first and second floor at 10 Dixon.

The first floor would house the circulation desk, the children's library, the fiction and non-fiction collections, the computer areas, reading/study/workspace areas, and a new elevator. The second
would have a children’s programming area, teen space, staff offices, a conference room, the art books collection, and the local history archives in a climate-controlled room.

The special focus in the planning is on the flow at the circulation desk (the very busy heart of the Library), expanding our services to children, more space for all patrons to use the Library either solo or collaboratively, and creating separate and accessible spaces for all programming.

Public Hearings

Public hearings were held virtually on January 12 and 13 to share information about the project and gather feedback from the public. More hearings will be held in the future as planning continues--check our online calendar and weekly newsletter for announcements.

You can also watch the hearings on YouTube:

Woodstock Library Relocation Public Hearing - January 12,

Woodstock Library Relocation Public Hearing -- January 13,

Floor Plans

You can view draft versions of the floor plans for 10 Dixon below to get a sense of the layout of the building. These are still under revision, and feedback is appreciated!

Download the 10 Dixon Ave Plans as a pdf

First Floor Overview (click to enlarge):
Sponsored by The Friends of The Library of Woodstock, NY Inc.

Donation information.

Subscribe to our mailing list

email address

Subscribe

WiFi

On even if we’re closed!

Facebook  Twitter  Instagram

Library Closings 2022

Monday January 17 – MLK Jr Day
Monday February 21 – Presidents Day
Saturday May 28 – Memorial Day
Monday May 30 – Memorial Day
Monday June 20 Juneteenth Observed
Monday July 4 – Independence Day
Saturday July 23 – Library Fair
Saturday September 3 – Labor Day
Monday September 5 – Labor Day
Monday October 10 – Indigenous People's Day
Friday November 11 – Veterans’ Day
Thursday November 24 – Thanksgiving Break
Friday November 25 – Thanksgiving Break
Saturday November 26 – Thanksgiving Break
Saturday December 24 – Christmas Eve
Monday December 26 – Christmas
Observed
Monday January 2, 2023 – New Year’s Day Observed

Second Floor South

Why Move? Current Library Building Issues and Improvements

- Not ADA compliant
- Poorly insulated
- Inefficient HVAC
- Mold issues
- Structural issues
- Roof badly designed
- Limited parking

Current Features of 10 Dixon Ave

- 44 parking spaces - off street to meet the needs of patrons
- Modern, efficient, healthy HVAC
- Pre-existing solar panels
- On-site generator
- Fiber-optic internet connection
- Outside, covered sitting area and entrance
- Almost 12,000 sq. ft. interior

Why Move? Better support of the Plan of Service

- Woodstockers are looking for an all-season Community hub. A place to meet with, bump into, and engage with their neighbors, visitors, and creative folks.
- Programming for all ages can be held in the presentation space without disturbing other Library activities, patrons, and collections.
- Support and celebrate the rich history of Woodstock by having exhibit space for special collections, art, and creating an interactive local history collection.
• Excellent patron service in a space conducive to both staff and patrons.
• Support businesses, entrepreneurs, remote workers, and job seekers to uplift economic activity in Woodstock.

How 10 Dixon Ave Supports the Plan of Service

• Meeting and collaboration spaces, the study rooms will be used by staff and patrons for various projects and activities
• Large, multi-use program room for all age programming that is accessible to all
• Dedicated children and teen spaces with a programming room for group activities
• Dedicated archives and historical resources space with secured entry
• Maintain existing service points (circulation desk and walk-up window)
• Better facilities for staff activities
• Individual study desks
• Comfortable and attractive seating areas

Changes Needed to Repurpose 10 Dixon Ave as a Library

• Exterior
  • Add an ADA compatible elevator
  • Enclose front porch
• North Wing
  • Remove some interior walls to create new spaces for offices, bookcases, and patron workspace
  • Increase structural load support
• Entrance
  • Relocate staircase and front desk
  • Create welcoming entrance
• South Wing
  • Remove some interior offices on 1st floor
  • Minimal changes on 2nd floor
• Creation of natural daylighting
• Improving environmentally green utilities

Bond Vote

A vote will be held on funding to purchase and repurpose 10 Dixon Avenue from Miller/Howard Investments. The Bond will provide funding by taxing Woodstock properties for 15 years.

• All voters registered in Woodstock are eligible to vote on the Bond Issue
• Voting process will be facilitated by the Ulster County Board of Elections

Date and Location of Vote: TO BE DETERMINED

Who Is Working On This?

The Library Board of Trustees is working closely with the Library Director, staff, and volunteers to bring this plan to a public vote and inform our community of the expanded services and benefits.

• Jeff Collins, President: collins@woodstock.org
• Barry Miller, Vice-President: miller@woodstock.org
• Liz Rosen, Fiscal Officer: rosen@woodstock.org
• Marcia Patten, Secretary: patten@woodstock.org
• Roz Balkin: balkin@woodstock.org
• Leslie Gerber: gerber@woodstock.org
• Caroline Jerome: jerome@woodstock.org
• Howard Kagan: kagan@woodstock.org
• Kevin Kraft: kraft@woodstock.org
Past Projects

The current opportunity to move the library to 10 Dixon Avenue is the most recent of several initiatives geared toward creating a better library facility for the people of Woodstock. You can read about past proposals on this page.