

Project manager to assist library construction project

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A new Tufts Library could begin welcoming patrons in the spring of 2020 if construction plans remain on schedule, according to Robert MacLean, director of Weymouth Public Libraries

A new Tufts Library could begin welcoming patrons in the spring of 2020 if construction plans remain on schedule.

“That would be the earliest,” said Robert MacLean, director of Weymouth Public Libraries.

Preliminary design for a new building, projected to cost \$33 million, proposes an expanded children’s room to accommodate children ages 10-12, an enlarged historical archives section to contain artifacts, a large multi-purpose meeting room to seat 200 people, accommodations for 20 additional computers for patron use, increased book shelves, and an outdoor amphitheater.

MacLean said excitement among library staff for the upcoming project got a boost Jan. 15 when Mayor Robert Hedlund selected Hill International of Boston to serve as operations project manager.

“They have a good track record working with libraries and they are now working with the Chapman Middle School project,” he said. “They have a good hand on the town and a great background. They are very professional and are dedicating a great team to this project until the ribbon cutting.”

A 13-member library construction committee selected by Hedlund last month chose Hill International to serve as operations project manager.

“Hill has outstanding credentials in the field of library work, not to mention our very positive experience with the firm as operation project manager for the town’s Chapman Middle School Building project,” Hedlund said in a written statement. “I am pleased with the library construction committee’s recommendation and look forward to working with Hill on this valuable project for Weymouth.”

MacLean said Hill International was among 12 firms that submitted proposals to the library construction committee.

Firms submitting applications for the library project included; Colliers International NV5, Pinck & Co., STV/DPM, KBA, P3, Pomroy Associates, Vertex, Atlantic Construction & Management, CMS, and Ted Gentry Associates in addition to Hill International.

MacLean said the committee selected Hill International, Colliers International, and NV5 to be interviewed following a review of the application proposals.

“The committee scored the proposals and added up scores,” he said. “Three finalists were selected. The top three firms were given an hour to answer questions we had given them previously. They answered the questions and the committee tallied up the scores and selected Hill International.”

Hill International has managed more than \$3 billion worth of library projects throughout the world that house over 65 million volumes, according to a summary provided by Nick Bulens a town planning and community development grant writer.

The firm’s experience includes completing library projects for Boxford, Needham and several branches of the New York Public Library, the Washington, D.C. Public Library, the Cambridge Public Library and the W.E.B. Du Bois Library at UMass Amherst.

MacLean said the reality of a library construction project taking shape seems evident because Hill International was chosen to serve as operations project manager.

“We have the money and got a project management company on board,” he said.

Funding for a new library got a provisional \$12 million grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners in July 2017 to replace the 52-year-old Tufts.

Town council authorized Hedlund in October 2017 to borrow \$33 million to cover the cost of constructing a 53,000 square-foot library near Weston Park.

The amount approved by councilors includes the \$12 million grant amount, which will be reimbursed by state library commissioners to Weymouth when it meets a series of requirements that includes appointing an operation project manager.

MacLean said the library committee, which is responsible for supervising the design and construction of a new facility, will meet regularly with Hill International staff.

“The operations project manager will attend all of our committee meetings,” he said. “We will take direction from the committee.”

MacLean said the operations project manager will recommend an architect to design a new library and a construction firm to the library committee.

“They will have our interests at heart,” he said.

MacLean said he would be meeting regularly with the operation project manager and town Construction Supervisor John MacLeod and Nick Bulens, a planning and community development grant writer.

“We will have daily interaction with the project,” he said. “Our next step is for the operation project manager to help us hire an architect.”

MacLean said the library committee would review a proposed building design and have to approve it before the operations project manager recommends appointing a construction company.

“Will then have to create documents to put out a bid for a construction firm to be hired,” he said.

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