

**QUESTION:**

**If nothing is done and the charter is cancelled, could Clark House become an independent "village library?"**

Operating a library without a charter would be formidable. The library receives funding from many sources that would likely not be available to a non-chartered library, primarily, but not limited to the taxes levied after voter approval (twice) in the amount of \$339,000. Without a charter, it is unlikely that the library could be a member of the networks and organizations that allow inter-library loans. Staffing a library would require some paid professionals, even if volunteers rounded out the operating hours. WRLIS has learned that finding volunteers for even the simplest tasks is not easy, as most of us have busy lives and many, many demands on our time. The challenge of finding, training and overseeing reliable volunteers would be daunting. Aside from staff, there are considerable on-going operating costs including building and maintaining collections, magazine subscriptions, acquiring new and current dvds and electronic books, keeping up equipment such as public computers and copiers, and the substantial costs of maintaining a public space in a very old building.

**QUESTION:**

**Is there any way currently to bring the building up to ADA code without significant cost?**

Clark House does not need to be ADA compliant as it is a historic building. However, as a public space it probably should be. One of our trustees has significant mobility issues, and he had trouble getting into the building (requiring three of us to help him up the steps to the porch), and visiting the upstairs (where the only bathroom is located) was out of the question. ADA compliance is mandatory if any major work is done on the property. Just the prospect of providing access to the second floor would be a significant expense.

**QUESTION:**

**What is the approximate cost of the proposed new construction (ballpark)?**

Because there is no proposed construction, there is no number. Paul Mays provided a working number for a new library of \$400 per square foot (including everything, even furniture). The size under consideration is 6,000-6,500 square feet (with room to expand in the future) which leads to an estimate of \$2,400,000-2,600,000. But there are so many uncertainties and variables (where it might be, how big, what design) that it is impossible to pin a number to the project at this stage.

**QUESTION:**

**How would it be funded without taxes? Galway got a new library and I thought they funded theirs thru tax. How is this different?**

WRLIS believes there are significant state grants available for library renovation and construction. In addition to WRLIS' own endowment funds, there would also likely be funding requests to our legislators (both state and federal), as well as vigorous fundraising.

The internet says that Galway is a “public school district library” while WRLIS is an "association library" under state law. Different rules apply to these different types of library under the NY State Education Law, and association libraries are expressly forbidden from using tax money to pay for anything other than operating costs. I note here that the operating costs of a new library will without doubt benefit from the efficiency of a new building, designed for this dedicated purpose.

**QUESTION:**

**What are the concerns for the proposed site being that it is frequently flooded? Has this been taken into consideration?**

The architect is well aware of the flooding that has occurred in South Park. If that were to be the location of a new library, appropriate remediation at the time of construction would certainly occur. Of course, any appropriate permits or studies required by SEQRA or other environmental rules would necessarily be completed.

**QUESTION:**

**What would happen to Clark House after new construction?**

No plan has been made for Clark House. It is owned by WRLIS. The terms of the initial bequest of the building to WRLIS would need to be examined, but other than that the possibilities are endless! Makers' space, historical exhibits and record preservation, gallery, visitor's center, children's museum, brew pub. OK, maybe not a brew pub. But you get the idea.

**QUESTION:**

**I think traffic thru the village should be taken into consideration. Maybe layout changes/one way roads to prevent people using village as a cut thru. Also need to think about how the lot will be used for library purposes and not just for parking on Zim Smith.**

Of course a traffic study would be a part of any plans to use any part of the Village for a new library. It has not yet been conducted because there is no plan in place yet. WRLIS is very aware of the issues associated with driving and parking in the Village and certainly these issues concern the other entities that would oversee implementation of any plans in the Village.

**QUESTION:**

**We read with great interest the letter about the WRLIS library study and had a couple questions. We believe the Library to be one of our greatest community resources.**

**Are there issues with keeping the Clark House as is? Was there consideration given to expanding the Malta Branch rather than the Clark House branch? (The numbers seem to indicate that Clark House is of sufficient size to serve the Round Lake Village, but not Town of Malta as whole.) Thanks in advance for your time.**

Thank you again for directing your question to the committee. We agree that the library is an important community resource. As you know, many of the committee members have spent countless hours keeping it running.

The biggest issue with the Clark House is in the context of WRLIS' greater responsibility to provide library services to the entire Town of Malta. While Clark House may be of sufficient size for the Village, the Village is only about 5% of the population of Malta. Clark House is also costly to maintain (as old structures are) and doesn't meet certain state and federal requirements, such as the ADA. It doesn't have to, because it is a historic structure, but it probably should as a public place. One of our trustees has significant mobility issues, and he had trouble getting into the building (requiring three of us to help him up the steps to the porch), and visiting the upstairs (where the only bathroom is located) was out of the question. There is also very little room for the staff to work in existing Clark House. Finally, there are structural issues that limit the use of the second floor, which is about half of the space available.

Expanding the existing Malta branch space is probably impossible because it located in a space owned by the Town that cannot really be expanded. Also, WRLIS rents this space from the Town, and doesn't have a lot of say over making large scale changes to the space in any event.

Putting a new library in Malta makes some sense, but it would be much more costly to obtain property in this booming area. WRLIS would also face practical challenges in overseeing and running a large facility outside of the Village and possibly even legal challenges, as one of WRLIS' purposes is to work to benefit the citizens of Round Lake. While operating a library in the Village for the benefit of Malta residents is comfortably within that purpose, operating a library outside the Village is a little less certain.

**QUESTION:**

**Do we know if grant money might be available for Clark House (assuming from the person's survey response that they are referring to adding onto Clark House).**

Grant money has not been explored for any of the options identified in the study. Certainly there is funding available for historic restorations and renovations, but the extent, requirements, oversight, and conditions of this funding are unknown, as would be the case for any of the options.

**QUESTION:**

**How difficult is it to update Clark House with more access to E-mail/media/computers?**

If you are asking about adding more public computers, there are issues with space and the limits of the infrastructure that was retrofitted to the building to provide these services. If you have been to the Clark House recently, you know the computer stations in the front room take up a lot of space. It's hard to imagine another place for these on the first floor. Using the second floor raises one of the issues with Clark House which is limitations on the use of the

second floor due to structural considerations. The second floor is also used by the children's program, which would present noise and other issues.

**QUESTION:**

**For ADA- a service ramp would be easy. What other requirements are necessary or can Clark House be "grandfathered in"?**

A service ramp would help, but the more difficult issues are accessing the second floor (where the only bathroom is located) and even maneuvering between the stacks and the tight spaces on the first floor are nearly impossible. A library trustee with a walker had difficulty negotiating this space when we met there. A wheelchair would be extremely challenging. The Clark House is "grandfathered" right now, which is why these issues exist still. However, if a certain level of work is done on a historic structure, the requirements of the ADA (not to mention building codes governing a myriad of infrastructure issues) kick in. The type of work that would likely be done to add onto Clark House would almost certainly require these updates.