

<p>Questions and Comments:</p> <p>I believe WRLIS should continue w/the recommendations of the study because we already know - from prior considerable investigation - that it is not realistic to expect Clark House to be able to serve as the RL Library presence in the Village indefinitely. At some point we would have to completely renovate the building- which would necessitate adding an outside ramp, elevator, fire escape, just to name a few items - not mention allowing for wider (wheelchair accessible) aisles....the list goes on and on - and all for a building that was not intended for a library when it was built. Such an enlarging of the building would consume most of the library lawn - but offer no additional parking - in an area where current parking is already woefully inadequate.</p> <p>I do think WRLIS should make it a top priority to keep a library presence in the Village. Our charter requires us to provide library services to the Town of Malta - which we do very well with our branch at the Malta Community Center, But now the population of Round Lake is growing - we have Victorian Landings and Griffin's Ridge developments being built and so we will need a larger library in our Village. I am in favor of building a new library on the south tracks area suggested by the Butler, Rowland, and Mays Study. It would allow Village residents continued walkable access to their library without crossing a main road - very important for our children especially. The site would allow for adequate parking - and - it would also allow for people from outside the Village to visit our library without causing congestion w/i the Village itself since the new library would be more or less on the outskirts.</p> <p>I think that to do otherwise than to go forward with the idea os a new library in Round Lake is to hammer a nail into the eventual coffin of our library presence here. And if Round Lake loses its library presence, we lose half our identity and WRLIS loses half - no, more than half of its mission - for just how much can WRLIS endeavor to make Round Lake a more desirable place to live if it lets one of its most important assets be lost (as Clark House will ultimately deteriorate)? I hope that our WRLIS officers and Library Trustees will work toward pursuing the recommendations of the study. and that WRLIS builds a new library in RL that our residents can enjoy for many generations to come.</p>
<p>1. Please provide substantiation of the oft-stated threat by WRLIS of a loss of the charter - correspondence by NYS DLS(?) If there isn't a real threat please stop using the (unintelligible). 2.) Considering the 1 -1.5 sq. ft. per resident guideline, Clark House is in excess of the requirements, by a lot, while the population center of Malta is underserved by even more, and is a quarter of the size it needs to be. Expansion should be in Malta. 3.) We don't need another community space, as we have an underutilized space in the Village Hall. Please provide documentation of the stated need for more space. 4.) This survey, while in theory is a good idea, in practice is misleading and manipulative - a Trojan Horse. Please stop beating the dead Trojan Horse of a huge RL library. 5.) Please don't bring more visitors and traffic to the Village.</p>
<p>1) Other than regular maintenance, I would not spend a nickel on the Clark House. Pouring money into that building falls well short of meeting future needs , leaves major issues unresolved, and strips the Village of a major resource - the Library Lawn. 2) I'd opt to see if we can build a new library in the Village and keep the annex uptown. But how do Town officials feel about this? Also, I see the proposed new building in South Park as problematic. It's too nice a space to build over. Perhaps moving the location further north in South Park might be more agreeable (or up on Simpson Ave.) Regardless, a new building is preferable to any other option because it meets current and future needs. 3) I know this is a contentious issue among Village residents. If we opt to do nothing but pretty up the Clark House in some fashion then WRLIS is not meeting the charter's mandate. At that point it would be better to give back the charter to NY State and let either the Town pick it up or form a library district, options that would result in a new library that serves the interests of everyone in both the Village and Town.</p>
<p>Add whatever is needed to enlarge it.</p>
<p>Are we being forced out of the malta community center? If not, why does this matter?</p>
<p>Be wary of Department of Education revoking charter and WRLIS being stuck for a building (meeting held about 1982). Further input and discussion available from RW Morrell, Joanne Patenaude, and Mary Hesson's notes. Malta may be required to have its own charter - options other than 1,2, and 3 exist. Call me if clarification is in order.</p>
<p>Being new to the community we are hesitant to respond as we are not fully aware of all of the background related to this issue. We do know that a library is a very important part of any community and access to it is essential. We think the Clark House as a library is unique and charming but also realize that it is not handicap accessible and is expensive to keep up. Our concern with a new building is the location in a very wet area as well the increase in traffic and parking that will change the atmosphere of the village. We had been told that Belmonte Builders had given a small area of land in their new development, Griffin's Ridge to the Village of Round Lake and wondered if this had been considered as a possibility for library use. We really struggled about which option to choose and we will give our full support to whatever is decided.</p>
<p>Building a new library building on South Lawn makes the most sense of all options presented - the library is maintained in the village, a library is provided that services the needs of more people, a safe library will be available that meets building codes and finally a potentially beautiful, comfortable library will be available that will be better than what is available at the Clark House (which I use quite frequently).</p>
<p>Choice 4 = keep Clark House and continue to study ways to meet the requirements of the charter. I recognize the needs of the Malta community at large. I also think that Clark House needs to remain viable for the Village of Round Lake. Additionally, it is clear that losing the charter may certainly spell the demise of the Clark House since the Town of Malta does not have the emotional attachment to our Village library. I don't see and either/or solution as all the options. I believe the premise should be to meet the need of those covered by the charter AND keep Clark House.</p>
<p>Clark House belongs to all of Malta thanks to the taxes we're required to pay and should be able to handle parking for people who live outside of the village.</p>
<p>Clark House serves as a quiet reading, ?, research, and meeting area - as well it serves as the source for books to order from the Adirondack system. Update as possible.</p>
<p>Consider traffic pattern alterations to stop people exiting the newly proposed library and cutting through the village. Congrats on all the hard work.</p>
<p>For the library to be successful it needs too make sure it is visible and accessible to not only Village residents but also residents of the southern portion of Malta. To me an ideal location would be in the area of the Aim Smith Trail/Curry/George Ave. crossing. Good visibility and space to develop parking. Tying(?) this location into Village Green could be a real plus.</p>

<p>Have we considered what libraries will actually look like in the future? It seems like the options are based on the assumption that they will look and function the same as they do now.</p>
<p>Historic preservation is of utmost importance. The women of yesteryear would want us to do everything possible to keep this building. My husband is an architect who has been in the building industry for nearly 50 years. He is the code enforcement officer who takes classes every year to keep up his license. He has been totally ignored on every issue.</p> <p>Something is wrong when the very start of this study began by the head of SALS recommending Paul Mays who is on their board (sounds like a conflict of interest to me) and then proceeding to say ..don't tell anyone he's an architect. WRLIS should have hired an unbiased consultant..not an architect consultant who is looking to build.</p>
<p>I agree with the study recommendations and would gladly accept a tax hike for a new library within the village or within walking distance. I hold a masters degree in library science and have always felt this to be the best option. As quaint and appropriate as Clark House is, it is inadequate as a community center, which is what the post-Google Information Age library has become. I think Burnt Hills Library is an excellent example of a modern small-town library and one we should strive to emulate. It is small enough not to be imposing on the village yet has space enough for an enclosed children's library well-suited to programs and classes, special collections, traditional stacks and a community room for meetings and art shows. We as a village probably don't require the latter two since we already have the community room and Auditorium for these types of events. Nonetheless, I would happily welcome a Burnt Hills-style library near Round Lake.</p>
<p>I believe the proper and clear path is to build a large building in Malta where the population is and to fund-raise for both that building and an addition to the Clark House at the same time. The Clark House addition should be a "cottage" reconstruction in library lawn with a connected enclosed "porch" to Clark House.</p>
<p>I do not feel we need a larger library. Let us keep our Library in the Clark house. It is plenty large enough for our small community. They can quickly order in any book that might not be in their inventory. There are any number of large libraries within a short drive if additional reference materials are needed. If the Malta branch feels they need a larger facility for their community, that should be their decision. The areas near the "Town Center" of Malta or the Malta Community Center area make much more sense to me if a new library was to be built.</p> <p>I do not feel Round Lake can accommodate the increased traffic a new and larger library could bring to the community. Nor should we take away any of our green space to use for a new building and parking lot.</p>
<p>I don't really agree with any of the options above 100%...</p> <p>I think it's obvious we need to do something, and that doing nothing will be detrimental to the community and possibly to maintaining the charter as well. However, I'm also not totally sold on the new library idea. Personally I would like to see more detail about the plan before getting behind it completely. (I do however LOVE the concept of having a building that looks like the rail station that used to be there put in roughly the same area!!) I am concerned about cost and feasibility of land use, and would like to see something more concrete about how the library would actually be paid for and a timeline for acquiring that money and moving forward. I'd hate to get everyone on board with a project and then find out we can't really pay for it, or that by the time we get the funds together priorities have changed.</p> <p>I would potentially be interested in seeing a proposal for adding on to Clark House, if for no reason other than to have a legitimate comparison. I am skeptical about putting too much money into an additional study though, since I don't think it will ultimately be a viable solution. Lastly, assuming we move in the direction of building a new library, I would like to see a concrete proposal for the Clark House building to accompany it. I don't have super strong feelings about what gets done with Clark House if it no longer houses the library, but I think it's important to ensure that something productive will be done with it.</p> <p>Thanks for putting this survey together folks!</p>
<p>I feel that the RL library does not need big common spaces, since we have the auditorium and community room and fire hall for such things. ...but I do think that Clark House needs updating for bathrooms, ADA, etc.</p>
<p>I felt like the survey group just threw this together. Lots of misinformation. My voice was not heard.</p>
<p>I found that much of the architect's assessment addressing improving Clark House was negative. There is the opportunity to continue to work on this matter with an organization like SHPO to preserve our library and do things like bring it up to code. There must be creative ways to address contemporary library needs with an unusual historic library structure within an unusual historic village like this. I believe it can serve our community and it can serve those interested in engaging with our community (for example perhaps when the village moves forward on solving the major issue of parking we can function as a walking community). I participate in programming twice a week with my class and make additional visits for them to choose books as well, albeit my interaction is biased as we use it primarily for children's functions, it is a joyful and enriching space for them to experience. I also predominantly utilize interlibrary loans and search via the internet for books so the size of the collection for browsing at Clark House works well for me, but again that is my preference. With the ever growing population of Malta there will be needs in the future to address the Malta Branch functioning for that population but I don't want to lose Clark House to solve that problem. I know this has been a long process so far, I am not an architect, I am just a patron, however I can't help but feel like I would be giving into a mainstream vision of what our community needs for this library.</p>

<p>I know a lot of time has gone into this by volunteers which I appreciate but I sadly cannot support the new library in the currently proposed location and I do not believe other locations are being seriously considered. I would also consider funding an additional study to evaluate adding on to the Clark House if it is determined the new building is not going to be built someplace else. The lack of information provided by the "study" is astounding in my mind. As far as I can tell it is really just an architectural drawing for a new library which is already too small for a growing community.</p> <p>It provides no information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>â€¢ How it will affect traffic</li> <li>â€¢ How much it will cost to maintain the new gardens, grass, leaf removal</li> <li>â€¢ How much it will cost for snow removal of parking lots and ice maintenance</li> <li>â€¢ General operating expenses like electricity, heat, water and air conditioning</li> <li>â€¢ How we will pay for more staff (We were actually just voting on giving people raises for the current library and it came down to pennies!)</li> <li>â€¢ And finally, how will it be funded to be built</li> </ul> <p>This is the type of information that I think should be expected to be included in a study.</p>
<p>I love the Clark house and have used and enjoyed it with my kids for years. I also understand the potential need for a larger library more in line with the population that live in the surrounding area. I don't feel the need for the Village to take on that burden. If Malta needs a library that is more in line with it's population I believe there are better places for it to be situated than in the village. If that means we would lose the Clark House, I would encourage more discussion.</p>
<p>I personally love the library as is although I would like to see a RL book club in the future. I would suggest leaving Clark House as it is and adding on to the Malta Branch as needed. That way the larger Malta community will have their own space and Clark House can stay as is. If this isn't possible then a small addition using the land next to the library would be ok as long as it wasn't too modern looking or out of place. It would be nice to have a small community (RL) room.</p>
<p>I take the recommendations of the study to mean a new library. If this is what all the residents of Malta want, then we should pursue building closer to the population center. Malta can donate parkland to avoid the expense of purchasing land. Any future plan should include continuing support for the Clark House in some capacity.</p>
<p>I would vote to either to evaluate adding on to Clark House or just continuing the maintenance of Clark House. Under no circumstance would I have the village use any current green space to put in a new library.</p> <p>I have discussed this issue with most of my neighbors and all would like to see Clark House continue as our library. It has been suggested that an addition could be placed on the structure with the elevator being housed in a corridor between the old and new construction. This would be very similar to the house directly across the street from the library which is very aesthetically appealing.</p>
<p>I would vote to either to evaluate adding on to Clark House or just continuing the maintenance of Clark House. Under no circumstance would I have the village use any current green space to put in a new library.</p> <p>It has been suggested by one of our neighbors to add on to Clark House in the area WRLIS already owns. The required elevator could easily be housed between the old and new construction.</p>
<p>I wouldn't be opposed to studying another location for the library, like the very underused baseball field (which has access to route 9). But, the proposed new library would likely be the largest structure in the village, placed in what is currently a very visible park. It would completely ruin the image of the town. I'd rather add onto the Clark House than add a new structure in such a visible spot. Please please publish the results of this survey.</p>
<p>I'm hesitant to move ahead towards a new library without considering option 3. 1. Do we know if grant money might be available for Clark House? 2. Parking is a concern everywhere in the village, but people attend larger events across the street at the Auditorium. 3. I'm sure an architect can be found that can propose new changes while keeping the unique historic appearance of the Clark House intact. 4. How difficult is it to update Clark House with more access to email/media/computers? 5. For ADA - a service ramp would be easy. What other requirements are necessary or can Clark House be "grandfathered" in?</p>
<p>I'm interested in historic preservation of Clark House. I don't think the size and design of the new library fits the village.</p>
<p>If the Malta branch is unable to provide service to Malta residents, it should update. It must also be noted that it is part of a much, much larger group of libraries in the area including the gargantuan Clifton Park Library, which reflects the personality of Clifton Park - huge, useful, and fully accessible for any needs not met in our community less than 9 miles away. This was part of the reason we (and others) moved here - for the history and adorable community. This is reflected in the personality of the Clark House, which we know provides limited services.</p>
<p>In our short time here in Round Lake, we have grown to love the library and community activities it promotes. My fear is that the organic gathering space this is present at the library is being over-shadowed by the opportunity to have something "bigger" and "better". The library remaining at the Clark House will continue to inspire community activities because of its current central location in our historic village.</p>
<p>It is obvious that something needs to be done. It would be sad to move the library away from Clark House. The best solution would be for an architect to design an addition that is in keeping with the character of the Village. If possible, for a tax district of building a new facility.</p>
<p>It is very important for Round Lake to have a library here in the village. Wherever the library is in the village, there will probably be parking issues (even on the South Lawn). I don't feel that one building, whether in Round Lake or Malta, will be able to meet the needs of both communities.</p>
<p>Keep the library (Clark House). Do not build a new one!</p>

Leave Round Lake alone! It has gotten way to uppity!
No new library - visit Malta.
Of the options offered, my choice is #1. I vehemently oppose building on the South Lawn. I support the proposal to build in Pasquarell Athletic Field - such a proposal achieves the goals of a new building, with the added benefit of keeping traffic out of the Village - AND augments parking for the athletic events. I also observe that the demographics have the tail wagging the dog. Malta has grown massively. Round Lake has not. The reality suggests that Round Lake should be the satellite and Malta the hub. Keep Clark House, let Malta have the charter. Negotiate the transfer to make it so.
Our children grew up with our precious Clark House (aka Round Lake Library.) Now our grandchildren are experiencing this magical place! Please don't take it away...
Please keep the Clark House as our library. The Malta library should be allowed to grow with the population in Malta center.
Stop wasting money on architecture and surveys and use the money to help improve the look of the village.
Supportive of any direction that the committee deems appropriate! Personally, I'd find it useful to have sufficient community space, particularly when considering the opportunities that would subsequently be presented in conjunction with the Auditorium (i.e. Rehearsal and Green Room space to draw in a wider array of acts to the Auditorium).
The chartered responsibilities given WRLIS are likely not possible in Clark House but I believe that many, or most village residents value the history, tradition, and charm of the current "Grove" setting. Adaptations to Clark House would permit the continuance of a "library" there with an altered, or perhaps a specialized use. I'm uncertain of the legal/contractual implications of abandoning the charter, and I recognize that WRLIS has a vested interest in maintaining it. I also am uncomfortable with WRLIS' identity separate from the village of Round Lake. Given these options though, I chose the option that would preserve Clark House, which is, to me, the highest priority.
The Clark House is a charming building, but it is no longer suitable to serve as a library for our community for several reasons. First, as an historic structure, it was not built to hold the sustained weight of the many books in the library inventory. Damage to the structure will ultimately result. Second, the lack of accessibility to the building and to the second floor limits its usefulness for all people. Adding on to Clark house has been evaluated before and the additional space would have to be largely dedicated to the accessibility improvements that would be required to meet code, leaving little room for programmable space. Third, modern libraries have a broader range of facilities for the community to support programming for children, teens and others. The Clark House doesn't offer that. The objection that relocating the library to some other part of the Village makes it less convenient ignores the fact that we live in a tiny village where every corner is no more than a 5 minute walk away. Personally, I believe it is a reasonable tradeoff to build a new modern library in the Park, provided the architecture respects and reflects the Village. The Clark House could serve as a history museum, as offices for the Auditorium manager in the summer and other community purposes.
The Iroquois Federation used to plan for 6 generations henceforth. Using that criterion, it is unrealistic to believe that the Clark House could exist 120 years in the future as it does now. Its limitations of display space, handicapped accessibility, including restrooms, and inadequate fire safety capacity; clearly show that another use must be found if it is to be preserved and maintained. I suggest it become the repository of WRLIS's repository of historical objects and archives. It might also serve as WRLIS meeting and office space. A newly constructed library in Round Lake Village can be both architecturally historically appropriate and modernly equipped to meet the needs of the generations to come.
The letter was very helpful and helped to dispel "rumors and half-truths". I also had an in-depth conversation with library staff. I am not against change/growth. However, for me, change has to be made with wisdom. Whatever "changes" that are made that are made in this village should NEVER compromise the integrity of the village. I have not lived here as long as a lot of you, but I LOVE this village and love living here. Please know that I realize a LOT of thought, work, etc. has gone into this. I am not naive, but I hope there is not a "thread" of politics running through this. Thank you!
The library is tied to many different issues; money, land use, community, etc. If you want a bigger, better library then build a new one in Malta. We should have built one on the land given to us by the developer on Rt. 9. We should not build on existing park land. You can't make new park land. We must preserve and protect the park land rather than eliminate parkland. We should not rob Peter to pay Paul to the detriment of all.
The library lawn is a favorite place for our children to visit, play, and explore. We enjoy the community events that take place there, too. We moved to Round Lake for its community - on its small scale! We do not want a huge - destination library in our village. We take our children elsewhere when the urge arises to visit a larger library. The wonderful small - in a pinch! - library that we have suits the/our community. Lets focus our efforts on maintaining and preserving what we have right now.
The library was the ONE building I chose not to enter until I knew for sure that we were going to be living here! I knew I would fall in love with it. And that I have! However, I do see the recommendations from the committee as the best option to pursue. Perhaps, ultimately, the library (Clark House) can become a historical society building - a place to house the extensive photographs and artifacts from Round Lake's rich past.
This roadway (Andrews/Peck Aves.) is very dangerous as is. The blind turn is a terrible accident waiting to happen. I witness daily the close calls with traffic and children Additional traffic is incomprehensible for the safety of this location. Please keep the current location as is. It has a proven history of safety and service to this community.
Truth be told, I'm more of the mindset of "both options 2 and 3". I think that WRLIS members should be presented with a clearer understanding of what the cost implications would be for trying to rehabilitate Clark House -- even though I personally prefer the idea of a new library. We aren't going to be able to "heal wounds" (as it were) without at least providing meaningful consideration to alternate proposals. I believe that the initial and out-year maintenance costs for Clark House are prohibitive, and I'm suspicious that we could actually do something that would be "in character with the Village" while also getting the space we need out of it. But we should be able to say this with a higher degree of certainty than we are right now.

We love the library how it is. For our community the library is perfect! My kids love how cozy it is and how we can walk from our house. It is also convenient to run over and get a book because of the proximity. Having the library where it is has allowed me to continue my love for reading even with two young children. Please leave the wonderful library how it is now.

What brought me here is the uniqueness of this great community. It is the best-kept secret in the area; not only from the unique architecture, but also of the great people who live here and contribute to the community. The library, for me, is a living history and should remain - but with upgrades and restored as needed.

- 1) Since WRLIS had the original charter in 1900 and it was expanded to include the Town of Malta in 1976, can the village request that a separate charter (or whatever the appropriate term would be) be given to the Town of Malta and WRLIS just be responsible for Round Lake? In other words WRLIS gives up the responsibility for the Town of Malta and is only responsible for Round Lake, Considering the decision was made in 1976, when the Town of Malta was very small a reasonable argument could be made to split the responsibilities since Round Lake's need and unique/historic community are very different than the needs and history/configuration of Malta. The pressure to meet the exponential growth of the Town of Malta is too much and beyond the scope and ability of WRLIS. Let WRLIS just take care of Round Lake.
- 2) Using the standard square feet per resident for library space, Malta is in need of larger space, not Round Lake. Round Lake does not need a larger space based on number of residents (unless my calculations are incorrect). The bullet point cited on this is a bit misleading (not complete)
- 3) The community already has a community room that is underutilized. Since it is close to Clark House I would like to see an arrangement created with the village to hold events there. An upgrade could be jointly made. Also the architect's plan shows that the community space would take up 1/3 of the design of the building. I have seen much larger library spaces where the community room is not 1/3 the size of the overall footprint. Lastly creating more space like this will invite more Town of Malta residents to come to Round Lake because there isn't free space available in Malta. I do not want Round Lake to become a community destination. The roads that would have to be developed to accommodate traffic will be very disruptive.
- 4) Since the Town of Malta will primarily benefit from a brand new library and their population is what is exploding, ask them to get and work with you to pay for the land. If they really want this expanded facility, they can help make it happen. WRLIS seems to be so ready to give up precious Round Lake land (and beautiful green space) to benefit Malta's growth, when Malta should be the one making the sacrifices.
- 5) As far as expanding Clark House goes, I am sure there are designs (for example a separate structure with a connection) that would not significantly impact on the historic integrity of the building. Parking: the traffic is SO minimal right now and the library is pretty much empty most of the times I go in there and there's additional parking nearby, we don't seem to have a parking issue. Please consult with architects other than Paul Mays regarding preserving the historic integrity of the building (office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation could also be a helpful resource)
- 6) As far as the charter being "threatened" is this something that has actually been communicated to WRLIS and, if so, what has actually been said on and off the record? In placing this statement towards the end of the text portion of your communication, I am concerned it is misleading and will scare people into supporting an expansion without any concrete evidence being presented that would support this assertion of threat, what might happen, etc. It seems like conjecture and not at the level of hypothesis. I would like more of an open dialogue with the decision makers at the State. Also who exactly are these mysterious, unnamed decision makers? They should be clearly stated.

In summary I think WRLIS should re-visit their responsibilities under the current charter and formally request that the Town of Malta be responsible for their own library. There are several sound arguments to be made in favor of this. Since WRLIS has a competent attorney that successfully argued and won an Historic Landmark designation for our organ, I think she (along with input from others) would be very effective at making our case.

I think WRLIS is over-functioning and trying to take on too much responsibility. The controversy and energy it would take to pursue meeting Malta's needs at the risk of alienating the Round Lake community further (WRLIS has a significant PR and membership problem) is unhealthy for the organization and the community. Talk about burnout!

We can address Round Lake library needs, our population size, etc; Clark House can be upgraded and reconfigured without significantly disrupting the architectural integrity of the building. If an expansion is needed, that can be addressed so that it meets Round Lake resident needs.

In no way should we be giving up our precious green space (especially where the new build is proposed to meet Malta's needs. Our village needs green space to act as a buffer and help calm the visual field to maintain the small town feel and integrity of the village and prevent urban sprawl. We are trying to hold off the urban sprawl of the Town of Malta, not invite it in. FYI: A recent study showed that Malta overwhelmingly failed with regards to their planning and use of Smart Growth principals. People with more Knowledge and experience need to be brought into this discussion. It is very dangerous to rely on a consultant who can benefit from building a structure. At best, it appears to be a conflict. For the village's sake, seek out more people who are knowledgeable about important areas of potential impact that are beyond your scope of expertise.

Thank you for collecting input, I hope the information is used in a constructive, thoughtful manner that is best for our community, even if it reduces the responsibility of WRLIS.