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SHERBORN, MA**

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## **SHERBORN LIBRARY TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE \$400,000 GRANT FROM THE WEEZIE FOUNDATION**

The Sherborn Library Trustees are pleased to announce a grant of \$400,000 from the Weezie Foundation in support of the Campaign for the Sherborn Library. "This generous grant, payable over four years beginning in 2013, is a wonderful gift toward a key vision for this renovation and expansion project to create an inspiring new space at the Sherborn Library where children of all ages can learn, explore and engage" said Stacey Brandon, Chair of the Library Trustees.

The centerpiece of the project is a new wing, which will house a dedicated Children's Room and adjacent outdoor Children's Garden and Terrace. The Weezie Foundation commitment to the project comes with naming rights for the beautiful, terraced garden, designed especially for outdoor reading, storytelling and children's programs.

In 1987, with another generous grant, the Weezie Foundation established the Children's Endowment fund at the Sherborn Library. "Throughout its history, the Library has enjoyed remarkable stewardship from a number of benefactors. How wonderful it is to see that tradition continue and strengthen today with the loyal support of the Weezie Foundation" said Library Director Elizabeth Johnston.

Initially populated with private subscription libraries, Sherborn established its first public library in 1860. By 1914, the library outgrew its space in the town hall and moved to a new building given to the town by William Bradford Homer Dowse. Fifty-seven years later, in 1971, the library had again outgrown its facility, and the trustees were considering an expansion of the Dowse Memorial Library. Richard and Mary B. Saltonstall, long-time residents of Sherborn with years of devoted service to the community, solved the trustees' problem by making an extraordinary gift of a new and expanded library building to the town. For over 40 years, that library has served Sherborn residents of all ages.

Now in need of expansion for children's materials and programming, updated mechanical and safety systems, and renovation for ADA compliance, the trustees have developed a plan to renovate and expand the facility so that the library may serve Sherborn for another 40 years. "With this very generous \$400,000 grant from the Weezie Foundation, the Trustees have now generated over \$2.4 million in gifts and pledges for the Campaign for the Sherborn Library, a public-private partnership," noted Steve Borgeson, former Library Trustee and Chair of the Campaign Steering Committee.

Private fundraising combined with the anticipated construction grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) will significantly offset taxpayer costs for the project which is currently estimated about two years out. "We are very grateful for the extraordinary generosity shown by those who have supported the Campaign for the Sherborn Library as well as the ongoing support we've received from the town" added Jim Murphy, Finance Chair for the Library Trustees.

For more information on the Sherborn Library, The Campaign for the Sherborn Library and the planned renovation project, please visit <http://library.sherbornma.org/>. #####