

Mendon library plans go forward:

Town residents could vote in July on West Main Street project.

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(May 9, 2005) — HONEOYE FALLS — Plans are moving ahead for a new Mendon library project that may go before town residents for a vote this summer.

The design of the proposed 12,500-square-foot structure off West Main Street in Village Square, a retail-office complex under construction in Honeoye Falls, is being modified, Mendon Supervisor Morris "Moe" Bickweat said Friday.

The next step will be for town officials to show the design to the village Planning Board, Bickweat said, adding that he hopes that will happen by the first week of June.

After that, the town would adopt a resolution calling for a referendum that Town Board member Roy Cluff said might take place by July.

The Town Board formally approved the West Main Street site for the library last month after discussing a report by the MRB Group, a Rochester-area engineering, architecture and surveying firm.

The report included a comparison of that site and one the previous Town Board had unanimously approved in 2003: town-owned land in the village off Monroe Street behind the library's current location, 15 Monroe St.

Site development cost was a big difference. MRB estimated the West Main site cost at \$384,223, about \$167,000 less than Monroe Street. Cluff said there's also room for expansion at the West Main site.

The Town Board vote for the West Main site was 3-2. Cluff, Bickweat and Marvin Vahue supported it. Board members Paul Tichenor and Patricia Freeman opposed the location.

"It should have been built where it was going to be," Tichenor said Friday. As for the expansion potential, Tichenor said he doesn't think libraries will be expanding in the future. "Libraries are going to become resource centers," he said. "It's all going to be done over the Internet."

The 2003 plan called for an 11,000-square-foot building and an estimated cost of \$2.1 million that covered all phases of the project, from engineering and site development to construction and furnishings, Tichenor said.

Although the costs of the new project are still being worked out, Bickweat estimated that construction alone would be slightly more than \$2.1 million.

Joan Charles, president of the Mendon library board, said the board agreed with the town's decision to go with the West Main location.