



TO: All Media
FROM: Kennebunk Free Library
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RE: KFL: The Next Chapter

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The Kennebunk Free Library (KFL) has begun an exploratory planning process to evaluate a potential expansion or renovation of its facility, marking an early step toward addressing evolving space and service needs. The initiative is being introduced under the banner **“KFL: The Next Chapter.”**

As library programs, services, and community use continue to grow, the planning effort will examine how updated or reconfigured spaces could better support learning, collaboration, creativity, and access to resources. The current phase focuses on gathering information, assessing existing conditions, and identifying both current and future needs.

“This is a time for listening, learning, and understanding what our community needs from its library—both now and in the years ahead,” said Michelle Conners, Executive Director. *“KFL: The Next Chapter* reflects our commitment to thoughtful planning as we explore how our spaces can better support the many ways people use the library today.”

KFL notes that previous community feedback and ongoing operational challenges have underscored the need for building updates to keep pace with changing patterns of use. No design decisions have been made at this stage; rather, the process is intended to explore a range of possibilities and provide a foundation for future planning.

To support the planning phase, the library has engaged two local firms that bring deep experience and strong community ties to the project. Benchmark, a local commercial construction company, has been engaged as construction manager to provide early insights into costs, constructability, and logistics—helping ensure informed and responsible decision-making from the start. Oak Point Associates, a design and architecture firm, is leading a comprehensive needs assessment and helping define the project’s design direction and potential scope of work.

Board President Vicki Lyons emphasized the importance of careful planning. *“KFL: The Next Chapter* is about being responsible stewards of a valued community resource,” Lyons said. “This process allows us to explore options transparently, with public input at the center, before any decisions are made.”

A public survey is expected to launch in mid-February, with additional opportunities for residents to share feedback as the process continues. Updates will be shared as the exploration moves forward.