Following is testimony from the Windsor Library.

Barbara

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Facilities. The Working Group may study whether library facilities and buildings could be improved with regard to energy efficiency, accessibility, flexibility, human health and safety, historic preservation, and intergenerational needs.”

Energy Efficiency: Two years ago, the Windsor Public Library had an energy audit done by Efficiency Vermont. With huge, 100-year-old windows, a finished basement and a vaulted ceiling with no attic, there is not a lot of insulating possible. Two things they suggested that could make a huge difference in our energy efficiency are installing cold climate heat pumps (which probably won’t be done due to the historic building) and installing solar panels on the office roof (also probably won’t be done due to marring the building’s historic nature.)

Accessibility: The Windsor Public Library's children's room, meeting room, historical records room and bathroom are located in the basement while the rest of the library is on the main floor. While this historic library building -- built in 1902 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places -- does have a handicapped-accessible ramp leading to our main entrance, there is currently no way for someone who isn't fully ambulatory to access our children's room, meeting room, historical records room, or the bathroom. For many years, the Windsor Public Library's planned approach to becoming accessible included a costly expansion to the main building and installing an elevator. This approach proved cost-prohibitive. We have now adjusted our goal to instead install a lift into the existing building footprint.  We now have a much more affordable and workable plan for installing a lift, redoing the stairs to the basement to increase safety, and renovating the bathroom so that the library is much more accessible to our community.

The Windsor Public Library has raised $83,000 so far from grants and private donations towards our project. We probably need to raise at least another $20,000. We have our construction permit and were granted a variance to install a lift instead of an elevator. A grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation has paid for our lift. We are seeking 3 contractors to give us estimates for this job.