

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Q&A: Library project moving forward

Wasaga Beach – Work continues to determine where best to place a new library in town.

The following is a look at some recent developments.

What is the overall status of the project?

Council, staff, and members of the Wasaga Beach Public Library Board continue to work collaboratively to build a new facility that will serve residents and visitors for years to come.

I understand there is a short-list of sites. How many properties are currently on the list?

At the May 24 special council meeting, director of library services Pam Pal presented council with a report outlining a ranked list of library sites and seeking further direction.

Council shortlisted the sites to five from seven. Earlier on in the process, there were 13 sites on the list.

Members of council also directed staff to get appraisals done on the shortlisted properties and pursue agreements of purchase and sale for privately held sites in order to assist with financial planning. This is important legwork, which will help give council and staff a better sense of costs before council settles on a site.

As well, council told staff to create site plans for each location to also help assist with site selection.

Will there be public consultation regarding the sites?

Yes. In fact, at the special meeting of council, members of council directed staff to start public engagement when appropriate site information is available for public distribution and discussion.

We will advise the public through our website, social media, and traditional media when the consultation formally starts.

Is there other work being done in relation to this project?

Yes there is. At the May 24 special council meeting, members of council directed staff and the library board to launch a library needs assessment study. Council, library board members, and staff want to ensure the new library serves the community as best as possible. A study will help determine what the community would like in this new space. The study will also allow the board and library staff to share their ideas with the public.

How will the study unfold?

The library and its board will start a Request for Proposal process to hire a consultant who will oversee the needs assessment.

Where can I get additional information on the library project?

Staff reports from the May 24 special council meeting are here: <http://bit.ly/2Wkqj9u>.

You can also contact library services director Pam Pal at 705-429-5481.

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For media requiring additional information, please contact:

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