

## Timeline:

### *From 1975 Expansion to the Present At the Edgartown Public Library*

#### 1975

- Edgartown Library opens in its new building, expanded to 6,800 square feet. This caps a 10-year process that began with the first expenditures for architectural planning in 1965.

*Edgartown's population in 1975: about 1,500.*

#### 1983

- Library Trustees meet with Edgartown Capital Programs Committee to discuss need for another expansion.

*Town's population in 1983: about 2,500.*

#### 1986

- Edgartown Capital Programs Committee places Library on its schedule of needed municipal projects in the annual town report for 1985. Scheduled completion date is 1992.

*Town's population in 1986: about 2,700.*

#### 1988

- Recognizing the need for land if Library is to expand, Edgartown instructs Town Counsel to prepare right of first refusal documents for abutting properties.

#### 1991

- Capital Programs Committee pushes date for completion of new library back to 1997, reporting that the town's immediate priority is completing public restrooms on Church Street.

*Town's population in 1991: about 3,100.*

#### 1994

- Most recent addition to the Library (1975) needs a new roof. Library also gets new air conditioners and furnace. Library Trustees request \$85,000 for elevator to meet access requirements. Note: This is the last year the Capital Programs Committee mentions the Library project in the printed town report.

*Edgartown's population in 1994: about 3,400.*

#### 2001

- Library Trustees apply for planning design grant from Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and receive maximum amount of \$20,000. Voters pass a \$37,000 warrant article for planning and design.

*Town population in 2001: about 3,800.*

## 2004

- Edgartown Library Foundation is formed to support campaign to build the new Library. The Foundation applies for nonprofit 501(c)3 status, and raises \$205,000 in seed money which is placed in library's account.
- Warren House property next door to Library becomes available, and Trustees ask Board of Selectmen to back its purchase.
- Special town election is held to purchase Warren House property for \$3.5 million. Article passes, 438 votes yes, 172 votes no. Library Trustees form a Building Committee, which hires Schwartz/Silver Architects of Boston in October after public bidding process.
- Edgartown Library celebrates its centennial.

## 2005

- Board of Selectmen signs formal grant application to Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.
- State approves Library construction grant in amount of \$3.99 million. Edgartown is placed at #21 on a waiting list of 25 communities for funding.
- Design of Library wins conditional approval of Edgartown Historic District Commission.
- Edgartown Zoning Board of Appeals denies special permit to Library plan, citing concerns over design and parking space. Selectmen create a Joint Advisory Committee to move planning process forward.

## 2006

- Library discovers mold in walls of Children's Room and closes space from March 2006 to January 2007.
- Warren House building is offered to affordable housing agencies for moving and reuse as housing space. All decline. Engineer John Lolley appraises Warren House and reports that renovating the structure for Library use would cost twice as much as demolition and rebuilding.
- Joint Advisory Committee votes to accept plans for Library as revised to meet concerns of the ZBA. Zoning Board of Appeals reviews the new Library plans and declares that all its concerns have been met, clearing the way for construction.

## 2007

- Edgartown Library Foundation holds fund-raising events. Walter Cronkite accepts position as Honorary Chairman of library building campaign. Foundation produces a campaign video, and receives a five-year challenge grant from the Vineyard Golf Club.
- Library suffers furnace puff-back in December, forcing closure of the building through May 2008.
- A scale model of the new Library is constructed by the architects and placed on display in the Library entryway.

## 2008

- Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves grant award to Edgartown of \$4.59 million. Award has deadline of Dec. 31, 2009 — the time by which Edgartown must commit to begin the project.
- Edgartown Library Foundation holds fund-raising event on Chappaquiddick, and raises funds to complete the Vineyard Golf Club challenge grant. Foundation assists library trustees in applying for Community Preservation Act grant for restoration of Carnegie library building.

## 2009

- Library files recordation documents on the Warren House and Carnegie Library building with state historic commission, clearing the way for demolition of Warren House and moving of Carnegie building closer to North Water Street.
- Edgartown Library Foundation sponsors school essay contest, “The Value of the Library to the Community.” ELF also sponsors major fund-raising events – one at the Field Club for major donors, and a community celebration of the library on Labor Day weekend at Katama Airfield.
- At annual town meeting, Library wins \$200,000 grant from Edgartown Community Preservation Committee for historic restoration of Carnegie building interior. Project is put on hold until all insurance claims connected to the 2007 furnace puffback are resolved.
- In September, Library Trustees and Selectmen ask the state for an extension on the grant deadline of Dec. 31. State agrees, extending the deadline to June 15, 2010.

## 2010

- Edgartown Library Foundation holds fund-raising events at Lattanzi’s Restaurant in Edgartown, in Palm Beach, Florida, and in New York City.
- Learning that Edgartown Library Foundation has raised nearly \$1.5 million in cash and pledges — the largest amount ever raised for a municipal building in the history of Edgartown — the Library Trustees prepare a warrant article asking for a bond issue of \$4.1 million to complete the building project.
- After a round of work with architects and estimators, in collaboration with the Edgartown Financial Advisory Committee, it becomes clear that the bond issue amount will need to be \$5.4 million. After consulting with the Board of Selectmen, the Library Trustees withdraw the warrant article, asking instead for \$300,000 to begin a new round of planning and design. The 2006 plan, which has \$4.6 million in state grant money attached to it, is effectively dead.
- At Annual Town Meeting, voters allocate \$300,000 for use by the new library building committee for design and engineering expenses.

*Edgartown population in 2007: 3,920*