

WESTFORD LIBRARY PARKING LOT AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLE

As many of you may already know, the Town Center Committee, in conjunction with the Westford Library Trustees, has been working to develop a plan for a small parking lot located on the west side of the building. In December 2004, the library parking lot was identified as the top priority for town common area improvements in the Transportation for Livable Communities Grant. Improvements to this parking lot will create safer and convenient accessibility to the library building, as well as make the handicapped lot safer to use.

In response to comments received from the community which included a desire to minimize impacts to an adjacent wetland and reduce construction costs, the plan has been refined from 16 to 7 parking spaces. This modification has resulted in a reduced footprint thereby greatly reducing impact on the wetland, and has reduced the construction costs as well as permits needed from the State. The cost for the project is \$15,000 which includes gravel (no pavement), permit(s), signage (one-way sign) and labor (provided by the town road crew). If approved, this would increase the tax rate by one penny for FY'10.

The new parking lot will increase vehicular safety by enhancing site distances and access into the lot from VT Rt.128. Access will be restricted to a one-way entrance with the exit east of the Town Office. The site plan allows for additional plant screening which will also help to define and enhance the western gateway into town. The 7 parking spaces will meet the parking needs of the Library and include a handicapped space.

If you have questions about the project, please contact Melissa Manka at the Town Office or attend the public informational meeting on Monday, March 2nd at 7pm.