

FORUM

A BETTER PLACE FOR THE KILTON LIBRARY

To the Editor:

As a Lebanon resident and West Lebanon business owner, I again ask the Lebanon Public Libraries and urge the Lebanon City Council to consider all the options for building a new library in our community. We at West Lebanon Supply made a commitment to stimulate revitalization in downtown West Lebanon with our new building facility, which complements the architectural heritage of the Upper Valley.

Building a new library in West Lebanon is a wonderful and much needed resource. Three years ago, I suggested to members of the Kilton Library Board that they should investigate the option of moving the site to the former Holy Redeemer Property on Maple Street for several reasons. Some of the advantages include more green space and a larger lot; a more suitable location known for its quiet family neighborhood; less traffic than the Main Street site; and lower site-work costs. In addition, the Main Street site is more appropriate for a mixed-use building with residences, which would lead to additional foot traffic. This falls in line with the city's master plan for revitalizing a community by putting people in it.

The management of the Holy Redeemer property has indicated an interest in discussing potential options for this project. Savings in site work could exceed the design cost to date, and I urge the City Council to request a study from the Kilton Library Committee before committing to any supplemental funds. I ask the board to help us understand the right choice in deciding the best location and the best design for revitalizing our community. Publicized meetings during the design stages are important, and input from our residents and businesses supporting this much-needed project is appropriate and necessary if public funds are requested. It is not too late: I would have thought that donors to the capital campaign gave for the construction of a library that is best suited to the community.

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