

Main Street Skowhegan January 2011  
Draft Template for Economic Restructuring/ Downtown Planning



*Instructions: please feel free to fill in as much detail as you know-this is a first draft only*

Project Name:

Skowhegan Free Public Library Project 2012

Project Type: Infrastructure, Transportation and Traffic, Economic Development, Public Safety, Environmental, Waterfront Development, Public Health, Tourism, Historic Preservation, etc. (Pick as many as apply, or add others)      Historic Preservation

Downtown Foot traffic

Economic Engine

Education and Cultural Activities Center

Community Resource

Meeting Place

Summary: History, Progress to Date, Timeline for next phase, collaboration partners and lead agency/individual, existing plans, specs and data

Since 1889 the library has served as a positive influence for education and diversity, helping people move forward with their lives. Currently, Project 2012 goals are ADA compliance, and the meeting of fire and safety code guidelines. Construction has begun. Plans include elevator, new fireproof staircase and exit, handicapped bathrooms, enlarged genealogy and computer rooms, small meeting room, electrical and plumbing upgrades.

Scope of Work by phase

Phase I: Development of useful space in basement

Phase 2: Stack wing update and access

Phase 3: Construction of fireproof staircase and second egress

Phase 4: Five-stop elevator

Cost (total and breakdown, if possible)

\$875,000

Jobs created

Local contractor, Steve Dionne is working with local subcontractors.

Public health, education, quality of life benefit

The library brings value to the downtown area by 1. bringing foot traffic walking to and from the library, 2. acting as an economic engine with people looking for jobs online, creating resumes, starting businesses, etc., 3. serving as a center for education and cultural activities for both children and adults and promoting understanding and freedom of thought, 4. serving as a community resource in providing tax forms, information, maps, books, community bulletin board and a place to meet, 5. providing computer access for both residents and visitors.



### Historic significance

Presently assessed by the town at \$1,260,000, the library has been cherished by its citizens since 1889. The building contains a Memorial Room given by the town to honor Civil War soldiers. Included are stained glass windows and a commemorative plaque listing local men who served in the war. On the exterior of the building, are terra-cotta blocks containing badges and shields of the Grand Army of the Republic.

### Public Participation and sponsors (historically and/or potentially)

Town residents have always loved the library. Often, adult patrons relate their memories of coming to the building as young children. Currently, local individuals and businesses are showing their support by generously donating time and/or funds to Project 2012. Completion of this project will benefit all residents, and be a definite asset to downtown Skowhegan.

### Public and Municipal impact

Located in town center, the library is used by both citizens and visiting tourists. Acting as a measure of cultural and educational opportunities to potential residents and businesses, it helps to attract newcomers to town.

Presented by:

Jim Hastings, Library volunteer