

Ground Breaking Ceremony

Dec 12, 2021

Remarks by John Robertson, Jr., Library Trustee

It's been a long Journey from the Trustee's meeting about 23 years ago when the board decided that the facility in the Knowlton-Risteen building was inadequate and could not serve our broader community with the quality of service it deserved. **It** has been a rocky journey over intervening years with its ups and downs, but here we are today, shovels in hand, to initiate the construction of a community center that we can be proud of. **The** new library and senior center housed in this building will serve all our citizens for many years and will be inclusive at last for those left behind because of the lack of space and the library's physical barriers that prevented those who wanted to enter and could not.

The many citizens, both pro and con, who made the journey with us created a learning experience, a lesson in what it means to listen and accept all views and to incorporate in our plans any new ideas where we could. **Now** with the Selectmen and the Council of aging joining with the library the town can at last serve all the citizens of Upton: the young, the elderly, and those in between. **It** will serve the children who use the playground. **It** will serve people with hearing, mobility and other physical challenges. **It** will serve those who need internet access or audio books, and those of any generation who want to sit inside or out, read a book, talk to a friend, and call the Community Center a home away from home.

We will be here to serve! **We** will be here to serve all those who come through our doors. **For** opportunity to serve is a privilege in itself, a gift bestowed upon each of us by the town and from above for which we are grateful. **And** finally I see many familiar faces in the audience, colleagues at first and then friends. **Several** of them made the rocky journey from the beginning and others pitched in when needed. **Thank** you one and all. You made this possible!