

October 28, 2019

Michael and Marcia Russo

8252 VT Route 30

Pawlet, VT 05761

Dear Pawlet Public Library Trustees,

I am writing to support efforts to improve accessibility to the Pawlet Public Library. My husband and I experience significant difficulty accessing the Pawlet library for the following reasons:

- the accessible parking space does not accommodate a power wheelchair to exit into a safe van-accessible space (8 foot wide)
- the handicap parking space is not placed adjacent to the accessible entrance
- the accessible entrance is not visible nor is there signage that directs a person to it
- the ramp has a higher than 1- inch lip that prevents safe entering the ramp
- the ramp incline is too steep for both wheelchair patrons and mobility challenged patrons
- the ramp is totally inaccessible during the winter season due to ice and snow
- the accessible entrance door is not accessible and requires another person to open the door from the inside

Having access to our library is very important to us.

Daily, I am mindful of accessibility to our community whether it is going to the bank, stopping at the pharmacy or spending time at the local library. Is there a van-accessible parking space? Is there a handicap ramp into the building? Is the door wide enough for a power wheelchair? Are there steps or stairs into the conference room?

I express my appreciation for the Pawlet Public Library's forward thinking and consideration to improve accessibility as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Let us embrace ACCESS FOR ALL!

Sincerely yours,

Marcia G Russo and Michael L Russo

Marcia
Michael