

March 6, 2012

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Attleboro Municipal Council,

The Library once again finds itself in an unfortunate position. The Farmers Market is extremely popular and an asset to the community. No doubt the people running it never expected the overwhelming response they got from the public. No matter what the Library has to say we will most likely be portrayed negatively by the Market's supporters.

There is one fact, however, that no one can dispute. We cannot move the building so when the library is open we are entitled to all the spaces legally allotted us by the city council. We have too few spaces as it is – this is something we hear from our patrons all the time. We honestly doubt there is sufficient room for the Farmers Market, as well, even when the library is closed.

It is true that fall is the time of harvest and we understand why the market would like to remain open. However, it is also the end of summer vacations. By insisting that they remain at 74 North Main Street the Farmers Market is saying it is more important than the children going back to school who need to go to the library. It is more important than adults returning to college or taking classes who require the use of the library. It is more important than the library's programs. Last year when patrons tried to attend the program kicking off the library's award winning ABC read series many turned around and went home because they thought the building was closed. It is more important than the Friends of the Library Book Sale, an activity that has been held for more than 20 years. Last fall the market blocked patron access to that sale and it will do so again this year if allowed to go on at this site.

We can't pick up and leave. We do know, however, that the market has been offered alternative sites. We contend that the market has outgrown the North Main Street lot and if they are as popular as they seem to be, patrons will follow them wherever they go. We ask them to be reasonable and consider using another site. At the very least we ask them to consider another site when the library reopens or scale back their operation so that library patrons will have a place to park. Neither the library nor the market will be able to operate to their potential if we have to share that small lot.

Sincerely,



Linda M. Binns

Co-Chairperson

Board of Trustees, Attleboro Public Library