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TO: All Media  
FROM: Kennebunk Free Library  
CONTACT: Michelle Conners, Director  
985-2173; [kfl@kennebunklibrary.org](mailto:kfl@kennebunklibrary.org)  
DATE: September 7, 2023  
RE: 1 Fletcher Street

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### **Kennebunk Free Library Purchases 1 Fletcher Street**

Kennebunk Free Library is very excited to announce the purchase of 1 Fletcher Street, the building adjacent to our current location in our parking lot. This wasn't something we were anticipating, at least not this soon, and will soon provide our community with an incredible expansion opportunity!

In 1986, KFL became the owner of 1 Fletcher Street by way of a generous arrangement with Robert E. Marier, Jr., and Patricia W. Marier, subject to a 75-year leasehold agreement. Meaning, KFL was set to become the owner, with rights of use and possession to the property, in 2061. Recently, the owners of the 75-year leasehold agreement decided they wanted to sell the remaining time. Generously and graciously, they gave KFL a first and exclusive opportunity to acquire it. Not only that, but the owners, Betty Smith, Carol Newell, and the late Phil Newell, contributed a substantial amount of the cost via an in-kind donation offsetting nearly 40% of the price! Their generosity, and KFL's gratitude, cannot be overstated.

Additionally, we are extremely grateful for all our donors as we wouldn't have been able to make this happen without you. Your ongoing, strong support, combined with the generosity of prior generations, provided us with the funds to make this possible. Legacy giving in the form of major donations (past and present), along with gifts in wills, were an important part of the equation. We are deeply moved when we think about how our current donors and library supporters from decades ago are giving us the opportunity to expand and reimagine KFL for our community today and for future generations.

So, what's next? Our 2018 community survey, with over 500 replies, clearly highlighted the library's need for additional space. And that need has only grown over the last five years. Our community wants larger rooms for programs and meeting space, youth and teen activity areas, quiet study spots for learners and remote workers, efficient storage for our expanding Library of Things, and so much more. 1 Fletcher Street is an incredible expansion opportunity and requires thoughtful planning, collaboration, and fundraising. We do have some time as 1 Fletcher is rented to tenants, at least through May of 2024. Fortunately, KFL is just beginning the process of creating our next strategic plan, so this acquisition comes at the perfect time. Get connected with this exciting project by subscribing to our monthly newsletter at [www.kennebunklibrary.org](http://www.kennebunklibrary.org).

Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main Street in Kennebunk. For more information, please call 207-985-2173.