

Several weeks ago, Lorraine Ryan wrote a letter to the editor asking why there has been movement on the library addition.

“It’s unfortunate she is not a member of New Milford *First*,” said Eileen P. Monaghan vice chair, “because we’ve been asking that question for months.”

Almost two years ago, the Town Council blocked a vote on the library expansion by proposing a panel to study the three major capital projects the town was facing – the library, the ambulance and the sewer plant expansion. The panel was to report back with a proposed priority list for these projects. This never happened. The library lost a \$500,000 state grant because of this lack of action.

Since then, the ambulance barn and the sewer plan expansion have been approved, while the Council again denied the library expansion in June. The Library Building Committee had presented a plan that will bring the cost down from the original request to a workable \$8 million plan “that would have covered *most* of the state library board’s recommendations for a town of 28,000,” she said.

It is not democratic that a few Town Council members are deciding if this project should move forward, Monaghan said, “It is time for the town’s residents to decide.”

To that end, New Milford *First* has approved a drive to present a petition to the Town Council. The non-binding petition will request the Town Council bring the expansion plan to a Town Meeting. There, residents can decide to approve the expansion or can call a town-wide referendum. “The petition is designed to make the Town Council listen to the voice of the people who have elected them,” she said.

The time has come, Monaghan said, “to stop playing politics with the library and let the town’s residents decide.”

Monaghan, who taught in New Milford for almost 20 years, served on the Library Board of Trustees for 12 years. She also was a member of the school building committee and has been involved in numerous other town activities. She is seeking election to the Town Council on the New Milford *First* line.

New Milford *First*, which describes itself as “the party the major parties love to hate,” offers an “innovative, inclusive alternative to politics as usual.” In its first campaign, in 2005, its candidates received about 19 percent of the vote; in 2007, two New Milford candidates were elected and its mayoral candidate, Bob Kostas, came in second.

For more information, visit [www.NewMilfordFirst.org](http://www.NewMilfordFirst.org)