SITE CRITERIA:
From Section I, the chapter on Location provides the following criteria:

Library must be highly visible, be where people must see it regularly.

Library must be easily accessible from all preferred modes of transport.

Library site must provide parking appropriate to the number of people expected to drive to the library.

Library site must have room for expansion of the library in a preplanned, controlled way.

Library site should be where the largest number of patrons can walk or bike to it. (If appropriate).

From Section II, we have the following information about the potential patrons in Salem Township:

Most people use cars to get to all services, stores, work, etc.

The busiest roads are Routes 50 and 83. The most used shopping district is on 50 in Paddock Lake.

The roads act as landmarks to the people of Salem Township.
The natural environment is the most beautiful part of Salem Township.

Sewer and septic disposal are big issues in Salem Township.

Because of primitive drainage patterns, soil conditions are a question.

Thirdly, a hidden agenda: the library has very little money available for site purchase and building. If at all possible, the site selected should be on land which is already publicly owned. If other requirements can be met by land which is in the public domain, this would be ideal.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

Since most residents use cars, and traveling through the environment is as important as any particular place in the environment, the location criteria for visibility can be met by a site which is on one of the two busiest roads in the township. This also satisfies the accessibility requirement.

Any site which will provide at least 1 acre of ground usable for building and parking will meet the requirements for parking. Having available 2-3 acres would be preferable for satisfying the expansion requirement.
Sewer/septic conditions and soil conditions are very important to architects and contractors, but not important to library patrons. Therefore, these will be used as eliminators of possible sites, not controlling factors.

Since most people cannot walk to much of anything in Salem Township - stores, schools, churches, services, etc., walking distance for large numbers of people will again be used as a site preference factor rather than a determiner.

POSSIBLE SITES:

There are three sites which meet the preliminary criteria outlined above. They are all on a major route (Route 83 in this case), they are all easily accessible to the people of Salem Township, they all provide at least 2 acres of usable ground, and they all can meet sewer/septic requirements in some way. All have areas of soil in either the Morley or Markham group which should provide reasonable bearing (these are the most prevalent soils in the already built areas.)

These three sites will be described in more detail and a selection will be made of one of them. All three are now publicly owned land.
Located closest to the busiest intersection in the township, and closest to the busiest business district in the township, this site was recently given to the Salem Central High School District. It adjoins the high school site on the east. It is possible then, that a pathway could be created through the high school property to a library built on this site, allowing the children of Paddock Lake, the town with the highest population (and the largest concentration of children) in the township, to walk safely to the library. It may also be possible for a pathway from the town of Salem to reach this site without having to use the highway verge.

Besides the two town commercial districts, Paddock Lake and Salem, there is a car dealer across the street and residential areas near the site are fairly dense. The rest of the surround is farm land.
This site is currently a ball diamond for Salem Consolidated Grade School. The library is currently located in two rooms in the grade school, and people who use the library are used to coming to this site. The library was begun as part of the school district and only recently passed a referendum to form a joint library district between Salem Township and Paddock Lake. There may be something of a reluctance for people from the Trevor and Wilmot grade school districts to come to this site. Some have expressed a feeling that they are somehow trespassing by entering another grade school than their own.

All children are bussed to Salem Grade School even though some live in walking distance. Although this site is more central than the first one geographically, it probably isn't more central for users. Many of the people living around the lakes are older retired people who have yet to be convinced, as a group, that the library is for them too. The library hopes to do this eventually. Perhaps the association with the grade school has confirmed the opinion many older people have expressed, that the library is nice "for the children."
The township offices and the township rescue squad are currently located on this 12 acre site. They are rather isolated from any residential areas, but are passed regularly by hundreds of cars each day. Plans are forming now to consolidate all township services on this site. This will include fire protection, police dispatch, etc. There was a recommendation to install tennis courts on this site as well, but no enthusiasm is evident in residents or township board. This use does seem a bit strange

Having all of these services on this site would produce a certain amount of activity each day. But since most services do not require people to come often, most of the people on the site would likely be employees.

One plus would be the fact that the library could easily communicate with the governing bodies of the township and receive information to pass along to patrons easily. This, however, does not seem enough of a reason to choose this site.
Site 1  Selected
POPULATION

1979

Salem Township   6849
Paddock Lake     2217

Library District
TOTAL            9066

2001 Projection

Salem Township (entire)  13,500

COLLECTION

Current         10,000
Projected       27,000

BUILDING

Core (in square feet)  4048
Each addition         1024

Data