

Planning and Design Timeline

1. In January 2016, the Jones Library hired Finegold Alexander Architects to be our project architects. They have created a partnership with Kuhn Riddle Architects.
2. By October 2016, we will have completed a set of schematics for a renovated/expanded Jones Library building. This will also include a cost estimate.

Construction Timeline

1. In January 2017, we will submit our construction grant application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC).
2. We expect to go before Town Meeting in May 2017 to obtain permission to apply for and receive grant funds from the MBLC. This will not be the final Town Meeting vote; there will not be any funding attached to this vote.
3. The MBLC grants will be awarded in June/July 2017. This is a highly competitive grant with approximately 30 other towns applying. Because there isn't enough money to fund all 30 projects at once, all projects will be ranked. The top 8-10 projects will be awarded their grant funds immediately, and all other projects will be put on a waiting list. Depending on how quickly the legislature funds the construction grant program from year to year, the wait list could take between 5 and 8 years to be fully funded. (A quick note about this grant program: these are your tax dollars which have already been appropriated for public library construction. We may as well take advantage of bringing this money back to Amherst...otherwise it will go to other Towns across the state.)
4. In the Fall of 2017, we will ask Town Meeting for the "Town's share" of the project costs. At that point, we will have a better grasp of how successful our capital campaign was. (The capital campaign monies will offset the Town's share; they will not be used to increase the cost of the project. For instance, if the total project cost is \$200, the state would pay approximately \$100. And if the capital campaign raises \$60, the Town would only have to pay \$40!)
5. After being awarded the MBLC grant and a favorable Town Meeting vote, we will have 12 months to begin construction (by the Fall of 2018 at the earliest, if we are in the top 10).