

MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM  
 Planning and Design Project  
**Monthly Report**

Library Name:	Jones Library
Address:	43 Amity Street
City & Zip:	Amherst, 01002
Library Director:	Sharon Sharry
Phone:	(413) 259-3106
Email:	sharrys@joneslibrary.org

Report Month & Year:						
January	February	March	April	May	June	July
August	September	October	November	December	20 <u>16</u>	FINAL
Date Completion Expected:		<u>October 2016</u>				

This is to report on the status of the public library planning and design project which is partially funded with Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program funds through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and governed by the Regulations and Assurances in the application and the grant Agreement.

NARRATIVE: (Describe briefly what happened on your project during this report month. If necessary, use an additional sheet.)

Please see attached.

Dated at The Jones Library this 28 day of September, 20 16

Name of Person Submitting Report: Sharon Sharry  
 Signature of Person Submitting Report: Sh Sh

Complete reverse only if you have entered into a contract with an architect

FINANCIAL: Total Eligible Project Costs			
<b>I. Project Funding</b>			
1.	MPLCP Grant Funds Awarded	a	\$ <u>50,000</u>
2.	Local/Other Funds Budgeted	b	\$ <u>25,000</u>
3.	Total; Funds Available. (a+b)	c	\$ <u>75,000</u>
<b>II. Expenditures to Date</b>			
1.	MPLCP Grant Funds Expended to date	d	\$ <u>37,021.58</u>
2.	Local/Other Funds Expended to date	e	\$ <u>0.00</u>
3.	Total Funds Expended (d+e)	f	\$ <u>37,021.58</u>
4.	Balance remaining to expend (c-f)	g	\$ <u>37,978.42</u>
<b>III. MPLCP Funds Summary</b>			
	Total MPLCP Grants Funds received to date		\$ <u>50,000</u>
	Total MPLCP Grant Funds Remaining in Local Accounts (a-d)		\$ <u>12,978.42</u>
	Number of grant payments received		✓

We certify that all unexpended MPLCP funds are earning interest in a separate account.

Attachments:

Other Project Information/Documentation

Submit one copy on WHITE paper plus any documentation required to:  
 Deborah Roth, Contracts Specialist  
 Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners  
 98 N. Washington St., Suite 401, Boston, MA 02114-1933

# JONES LIBRARY

NORTH AMHERST LIBRARY • MUNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM Planning and Design Project MONTHLY REPORT - NARRATIVE

August 2016

1. Scattered throughout the Library building are places for Library patrons to post comments about the building. We call it the "What do you like about this space" project. The comments were transcribed and posted to the Library's website.
2. Kept the Town Manager, Paul Bockelman, the Town's Assistant Town Manager, Dave Ziomek, the Town's Co-Finance Director, Claire McGinnis, the Town's Planning Director, Christine Brestrup, the Town's Senior Planner, Nate Malloy, and the Town's Finance Committee apprised of our project's progress.
3. Worked with the architects on our *Building Program*, and worked with our Owner's Project Manager on the budget. Discussions were held to continue to align the budget with the *Program*. Met weekly with key Library staff in developing the *Program* and aligning it with the budget.
4. Held All Staff Design Meetings, in order to "walk" staff through the new designs and allow for additional staff input. Staff input was delivered to the architects. During one of these meetings, staff were encouraged to describe to their colleagues the problems with their department's spaces. It was a VERY effective discussion because staff heard directly from colleagues, rather than from the Director or the newspaper. (The Jones is a large institution; opportunity for discussion between departments can be difficult.)
5. Patron comments/questions/concerns were responded to via email and during meetings.
6. Received and responded to Public Records Requests.
7. Because the Library only has one public bathroom on the main floor, and that one bathroom is in the Children's Room, staff in the Children's Room often have to direct adults downstairs to use our (accessible) adult bathrooms. Often, the adults become angry and yell at the staff for sending them downstairs. This month, one staff member was called "racist" for sending a patron downstairs.
8. Another Public Information Session was held.
9. Hazardous Materials Assessment conducted by ATC Associates.
10. "Community Hub Libraries" discussions occurred with Senate President Rosenberg and Representative Story and Representative Mark.
11. Tours of the Library were given.
12. Informational packets were created specifically targeting the teen and youth population, pointing out our building's deficiencies and explaining our vision for the future.
13. A *Gazette* newspaper article contained incorrect information about the future of our wooden staircase. We pointed out the mistake, and the newspaper printed a very small correction.
14. A resident accused the Library of not filing with the State's Historical Commission in a timely fashion. The State's Historical Commission, the MBLC, our OPM, and our Architect each agree that we have not missed a deadline.

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News > Local (/News/Local/)

# Group says Jones Library is an endangered resource

By SCOTT MERZBACH  
Staff Writer

Thursday, August 18, 2016

AMHERST — With preliminary plans for the Jones Library expansion and renovation project showing changes to the entire building, including to both the original 1928 portion and the 1990s addition, a community group is asking for the Jones to be classified as an endangered state historical resource.

Save Our Library, a community group formed to collect information and react to plans, this week submitted an application to the Plymouth-based Preservation Massachusetts seeking for the library to be selected as an endangered resource.

Save Our Library member Sarah McKee, a former president of the Jones' elected trustees, said she believes the building qualifies as a threatened resource because of the project being considered.

"Current plans include gutting the historic 1928 building, except for two of the original fireplaces, and the part of the two-story walnut staircase that links the front hall and second floor," McKee said in an email to the private organization.

Preservation Mass Assistant Director Erin Kelly said in an email said the designation, if granted, would have no impact on the library.

"The actual listing itself, is an honorary designation and does not come with any sort of protection, legal standing, financial or service guarantee," Kelly said.

The application comes after Finegold Alexander Architects of Boston last month unveiled plans in which the main staircase at the front of the building would be relocated and the entire second floor of the 88-year-old building would be converted into a reading room.

The architects must meet an Oct. 7 deadline to submit schematic drawings and a project cost estimate to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. After the October submission, the next step will be submitting a construction grant application in January.

## Support of trustees

The application to Preservation Massachusetts, though not initiated by officials, has support from Library Director Sharon Sharry and the elected trustees.

Sharry said in an email that Finegold Alexander has a track record of preserving historic buildings and that the firm wouldn't have been selected if wasn't going to preserve much of the 1928 building.

"The trustees and I are grateful that the community agrees with us that we must preserve the original historic 1920s structure of the Jones Library," Sharry said.

Austin Sarat, president of the trustees, said in an email that trustees and staff of the Jones value and share the commitment of all Amherst residents to preserve the library's historic character. The architects do, as well, he said.

The expansion and renovation is being pursued, he said, to meet the current and future needs of the community, making sure, for instance, that there is adequate space for programming and books for children and teens.

"We know we can do what is demonstrably necessary to improve the ability of the library to serve well all of Amherst's residents now and in the future while honoring its historical significance," Sarat said. "We are confident that, when our plans are finished, any objective group will acknowledge that Amherst can do both."

In the application, the Save Our Library group submitted a letter on behalf of Joseph Larson, professor emeritus of environmental conservation at the University of Massachusetts. In his letter, Larson wrote that in 1975 the Jones was included on the state's Inventory of Historical and Archaeological Assets, and in 1991 it was added to the state and national registers of historic places.

"The entrance hallway, grand staircase, wooden doors, wall and window moldings, paint finishes and artwork were carefully thought out and designed to be an outstanding statement of the importance of a library and its functions to the character of the town and its citizens," Larson wrote.

During a presentation last month, concerns about losing the home-style elements incorporated into the original design of the building by its benefactor, Samuel Minot Jones, were expressed by some residents who participated.

In November, Preservation Mass will announce the results of this year's applications.

According to its website, such a designation "is not legally binding in any way, nor is the program to be used as a negative, smear or shame campaign."

McKee said she appreciates that Preservation Mass "fosters historic preservation in a spirit of education, cooperation and collaboration."

Two Amherst locations have previously received designation on the most endangered historical resources: West Cemetery, which includes the graves of Emily Dickinson, other earlier settlers and black soldiers who fought in the Civil War, was named in 1998, and in 2007, the entirety of the UMass campus was picked.

Scott Merzbach can be reached at [smerzbach@gazettenet.com](mailto:smerzbach@gazettenet.com).

## LETTERS

### A sense of exploitation at Three County Fair

The last time I visited Northampton, I enjoyed a wonderful vegan meal, smiled upon seeing a storefront sign advertising vegan sweets and generally got a good vibe from the place as I strolled around town.

I'll next be in Northampton in early September, and that visit will bring me no such joy. I'll be there to protest the Three County Fair, and I won't be alone.

I'll be standing shoulder to shoulder with thoughtful, impassioned people who, like me, are sickened by humankind's cruel exploitation of other species.

We'll be there to speak for all the victims who'll be on exhibit, from the Bengal tigers who were born into captivity to be used for entertainment to those who were brought into this world to be robbed of their dignity, turned into milk machines and brutally slaughtered to feed appetites and bank accounts.

We'll be there to speak for the beautiful lambs whose lives were marked on day one with expiration dates, for the goats and calves whose secretions and flesh will soon be served to people who won't associate their food with stolen and tortured lives, and for all those who never had a choice. We, on the other hand, do have a choice. I wasn't born a vegan and don't know anyone who was.

I was a vegetarian for years before one day awakening fully to the horrors of what our species does to others. It's not an abstraction. It's an atrocity, one that will only come to an end when all of us listen to our instincts, look into the eyes of the doomed, and find the compassion we were born with before being fed a head full of lies.

DAVID BRENSILVER  
Waterford, Connecticut

### We should all look for ways to help one another

On a Saturday morning this month I was driving on Pleasant Street in Northampton at 5:15 a.m. on my way to the Gothic Street farmers market. I have been pulling a trailer full of equipment and farm produce on this same journey for over 40 years.

But on this Saturday the unthinkable



happened as I drove over the construction at the end of Conz Street. My car was jostled when I hit a pothole.

Immediately I heard the drag of my trailer hitch on the ground. I wavered between directing traffic around my disabled vehicle and calling the police to come and help. As it turned out, neither was necessary. A car pulled near my vehicle and a young man got out. "What is wrong?" He asked. I just looked sad and pointed. My trailer hitch had bounced off of the ball. I tried lifting it but could not. I explained that I was on my way to the farmers market. My trailer was full and I was at a loss.

That young man reached down and lifted the long neck of my trailer about a foot and a half off the ground and got it back on the ball of the hitch on my car. He reattached the chains and found and replaced the connecting pin I had dropped. He told me everything was OK and I could go on my way.

A stranger stopped to see what was wrong and asked if he could help.

And I thought that it was good to be reminded of the kindness all around us. I will be more vigilant for those moments when I too can offer a stranger some help.

LINDA LAZARUS  
Feeding Hills

**LETTERS & GUEST COLUMNS:** The Gazette encourages letters and guest columns from readers. Please send letters of up to 350 words or guest columns of up to 750 words by email to [opinion@gazettenet.com](mailto:opinion@gazettenet.com) or by U.S. mail to Gazette, P.O. Box 299, Northampton, 01061.

All letters and guest columns must be signed with a return address and a phone number where we can reach you between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Addresses and phone numbers are not published. We reserve the right to edit, condense or reject submissions. Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

### CORRECTION

AMHERST - A story about a community group seeking to have the Jones Library designated as an endangered historical resource by Preservation Mass reported incorrectly that the main staircase at the entrance will be relocated in an expansion and renovation project. While Finegold Alexander Architects did show the staircase moved in a plan unveiled in July, the current plan, updated Aug. 11, has a restored staircase remaining in place.

Opinion > Letters (/Opinion/Letters/)

# Eric Einhorn: Amherst needs to show some frugality

Saturday, August 27, 2016

## Amherst needs to show some frugality

Thanks to a recent letter writer for reminding Amherst residents that the town may be gorging itself on capital projects that it can ill afford.

Allocating \$37 million for a new public works building seems excessive. Perhaps some of the money would be better spent on the many roads that need repairs. Maybe the current building can be upgraded, or another building, like Fort River School, can be repurposed for less?

In addition, the town is being urged to spend lavishly on a new school building and major alterations to the Jones Library. Apparently town planners accept actress Mae West's quip, "Too much of a good thing is wonderful."

In a town with one of the state's highest tax rates, some residents may feel otherwise. Let's set realistic priorities. Can the Jones Library focus on traditional library services and ask the schools to use existing facilities and staff for after-school study and library space?

Eric S. Einhorn

Amherst