

# JONES LIBRARY

NORTH AMHERST LIBRARY • MUNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

*April 2015*

- Worked on the Library's *FY17-FY21 Long Range Plan, Building Program*, and Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to hire an Owner's Project Manager (OPM).
- Submitted our request for the first \$40,000 of our \$50,000 MBLC grant award.
- During the Library's second annual signature fundraising event, the Samuel Minot Jones Awards for Literary Achievement, my speech focused on the past as well as the future Jones Library, including the need for renovation/expansion.
- Attended Town Meeting where the Board and I fielded renovation/expansion project questions including concerns over the need to preserve the Library's gardens as well as concerns over Library parking.
- Met with the Director of The Literacy Project, which is currently housed in the Jewish Community of Amherst (JCA) building. The Project is being asked to leave the JCA and must find a new home. Because we have such a successful English as a Second Language (ESL) program, which already works hand-in-hand with the Literacy Project, it makes sense for the Library and the Project to pursue a collaboration.
- The Amherst Historical Society (AHS) continued to negotiate with the Library regarding a potential future collaboration. The AHS is housed in the Simeon Strong House, located next to The Jones Library building. The AHS is having significant financial difficulties and have proposed selling their back yard to The Jones Library. AHS would use this money for the establishment of an endowment, so the AHS could fund staffing and programming costs. The benefit to the Library includes having additional land on which to expand, thus preserving more green space. Also, during the Library's renovation/expansion project, the two buildings would be connected physically. Each Board would maintain responsibility over their own buildings/collections/programming, but some spaces could be shared including climate controlled storage space for our archives.
- The Town continued to negotiate with the Library regarding the possibility of the Town's six refurbished marble Civil War Tablets being installed in a renovated/expanded Jones Library Special Collections Department. Because each Tablet weighs upwards of 700 pounds, they must be hung on load-bearing walls. Much research has been done; it has been determined that creating museum-quality, interpretive displays within a renovated/expanded Library makes the most sense – financially as well as historically.

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