MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM
Planning and Design Project
Monthly Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Name:</th>
<th>Jones Library</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>43 Amity Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>City &amp; Zip:</td>
<td>Amherst, 01002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Director:</td>
<td>Sharon Sharry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>(413) 259-3106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sharrys@joneslibrary.org">sharrys@joneslibrary.org</a></td>
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Report Month & Year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
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<td>20</td>
<td>FINAL</td>
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Date Completion Expected: October 2011

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 1 day of April, 2011

Name of Person Submitting Report: Sharon Sharry

Signature of Person Submitting Report:

Complete reverse only if you have entered into a contract with an architect
### FINANCIAL: Total Eligible Project Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Project Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. MPLCP Grant Funds Awarded</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Local/Other Funds Budgeted</td>
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<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Total; Funds Available (a+b)</td>
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<tr>
<th>II. Expenditures to Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. MPLCP Grant Funds Expended to date</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>$60,738.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Local/Other Funds Expended to date</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Total Funds Expended (d+e)</td>
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<td>$60,738.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Balance remaining to expend (c-f)</td>
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<tr>
<th>III. MPLCP Funds Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total MPLCP Grants Funds received to date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total MPLCP Grant Funds Remaining in Local Accounts</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of grant payments received</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

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
1. The Amherst Historical Society (AHS) continued to research whether or not they can legally sell a portion of their property to The Jones Library, Inc. They were advised by their lawyer to bring with them to the court hearing a signed Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) and a draft rendering of the proposed Library/Strong House connection.

2. Worked with Amherst Town Counsel on the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Library, Town of Amherst, and Amherst Historical Society (AHS).

3. 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.

4. Kept the Interim Town Manager, Peter Hechenbleikner, and the Town’s Assistant Town Manager, Dave Ziomek, apprised of our project’s progress, including discussions about abutting properties.

5. Discussions were held with representatives from the Greenfield Public Library and Financial Development Agency about our two building projects, specifically about the fact that each of our libraries are “community hub” libraries and what impact (programmatic and financial) that has on our building projects. Met with Dianne Carty to discuss the MBLC’s construction grant funding formula.

6. Attended an MELC Construction Grant workshop.

7. Design Subcommittee meeting, a publicly posted meeting, held. This meeting was well-attended by the public and staff. During the meeting, we talked about the importance of bringing together the project budget and the Program. Because there are three other very important, very expensive building projects (each costing over $20 Million) occurring at the same time as the Library’s project, we need to be VERY aware of tax payer fatigue. We need to plan a building that will serve our needs for the next 20-50 years, but we also need to design a building that the Town can afford.

8. 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. Began to meet weekly with key Library staff in developing the Program and aligning it with the budget.

9. At the request of the Architect, a contractor has been hired by the Library to drill approximately 20 holes (“exploratory openings” big enough for someone to put their head through) in ceilings located throughout the Library, to verify the size and spacing of the floor framing. The areas will be tested for lead and asbestos before the holes are drilled. The Library will be closed to public and staff on the day this work is done.
10. Library Trustees and staff spent much of the month of March discussing the importance of the AHS 18th Century Garden and the Library’s Kinsey Memorial Garden. A citizen’s petition has been placed on the spring 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant asking the Trustees to preserve in its entirety the Kinsey Memorial Garden. The Trustees have issued a statement regarding the Gardens, talking about the need for flexibility when it comes to designing the expansion and whatever is ultimately decided about the Kinsey Garden, we look to work with the Historical Society, Friends of the Library, Garden Club, Amherst residents, etc. to create a garden vista which will inspire pride and be visible and accessible to the community.

11. When we sat down with members of the Town’s Planning Department to talk about potential zoning issues, we learned that if the Library were to purchase a piece of Historical Society property, it would create a non-conformity for the Historical Society. (The requirement for a “building circle” under Section 6.40 would be compromised.) Therefore the Library, as a Town entity, with agreement from the Historical Society, has proposed to request a rezoning of the Historical Society property from R-G to B-G. This rezoning will remove the requirement for the “building circle” and will also make setback and other dimensional requirements more flexible. This request is actually a fairly minor change, as it will bring the Historical Society into conformity with the neighboring structures and it will allow the Historical Society to continue providing services as a 501(c)3 non-profit, as well as continue to rent out their second floor apartment.

12. Made several presentations to the Town’s Zoning Subcommittee, Planning Board, and Finance Committee regarding the rezoning of the AHS property and the preservation of the Library’s Green spaces.

13. Spoke to the Amherst Rotary and the Amherst Woman’s Club regarding the building project.
Preserving Kinsey Memorial Garden at Jones Library among citizen petitions filed in Amherst

By SCOTT MERZBACH
Staff Writer
Monday, February 29, 2016
(Published in print: Tuesday, March 1, 2016)

AMHERST — Requiring the permanent preservation of the Kinsey Memorial Garden at the Jones Library, even if the library needs the space for expansion, is among 12 citizen petitions that could come before annual Town Meeting this spring.

The dozen petitions were delivered to the Select Board office at Town Hall by the noon Monday deadline. Only those with signatures from at least 10 registered voters, certified by the town clerk’s office sometime after Tuesday’s primary, will be presented to Town Meeting.

The idea for preserving the garden that was dedicated in 1999 in memory of David Kinsey, an education professor at the University of Massachusetts who died in 1998, comes from Carol Pope of High Street, who’s Kinsey’s widow.

The petition asks to preserve the garden, located behind the library and serving as a buffer to the CVS Pharmacy parking lot, and create the Kinsey Garden Committee with horticultural experts and gardeners to care and advocate for it, similar to how the Burnett Gallery Committee oversees a room where art is displayed at Jones.

The $12,000 garden was financed with memorial funds donated to the library in Kinsey’s name and with money from the Friends of the Jones Library.

While library officials are trying to negotiate purchase of the land from the neighboring Strong House Museum that would allow for expansion, Library Director Sharon Sharry has indicated that if this doesn’t happen “our architects will design a renovated/expanded building using only the library’s back yard.”
Elementary school issue

Another petition would request a study of options for renovating both the Wildwood and Fort River elementary schools, rather than building a new two-wing, 750-student Grade 2 to 6 school. This was submitted by Maria Kopicki of Country Corners Road, who has argued in a column published by the Daily Hampshire Gazette that renovating might be less expensive and more environmentally friendly.

Though the Amherst School Committee in January voted to reconfigure and build two separate 375-student schools in one new building, the petition argues that this was “cursory and insufficient,” and that the community should preserve the neighborhood schools.

The petition asks for an “impartial assessment and estimation of costs associated with renovating Wildwood and Fort River elementary schools, with an eye toward fiscal and environmental responsibility and providing a level of detail that permits the item analysis for major issues cited by the district as problems at each school.”

Another petition, brought by Vincent O’Connor of Precinct 1, asks the town to support a bill in the state Legislature that would require nonprofits such as private schools to pay money in lieu of taxes to their host communities.

The legislation, filed by state Rep. Stephen Kulik, D-Worthington, as House Bill 2584, would allow communities to require nonprofits to pay 25 percent of what they would have paid in property taxes if they were not tax-exempt.

The bill would allow continued exemption of some properties, such as those owned by churches and nonprofits with few employees.

O'Connor asked the Select Board to put his petition on the fall Town Meeting warrant, but missed the deadline.

Atkins Corner Neighborhood

Members of the Atkins Corner Neighborhood group in South Amherst are seeking sidewalks, crosswalks and bus pull-offs in the area of West Bay Road and the Hampshire College campus.

"This plan would enhance safe crossing of busy West Bay Road connecting the people and institutions on both sides of the road, supported by appropriate signage," the group wrote in its petition.

Another with a potential expense for the town is a request to spend $30,000 to hire a consultant to assist a charter commission, which could be formed at the March 29 town election. This consultant would help commission members understand municipal charter options and law and procedures.

Another petition would have Amherst join Northampton in banning single-use plastic bags, continuing a trend in which communities are prohibiting their use.

A petition that could have implications beyond Amherst calls for Indigenous Peoples Day to replace Columbus Day, led by eighth graders in the Student Advocates for Change at the Amherst Regional Middle School.

The other petitions would:
• require that Medicaid reimbursement payments received by the town for services to elementary school students be appropriated to the school budget;

• ask the University of Massachusetts to cover the costs of educating public school students living in tax-exempt housing;

• delete an item in the Join: Capital Planning Committee report that calls for spending $3.25 million in fiscal year 2020 to rehabilitate Kendrick Park;

• endorse Amherst College’s divestment from fossil fuel investments;

• and require that Town Meeting members be subject to state ethics and conflict-of-interest laws.

Scott Merzbach can be reached at smerzbach@gazettenet.com.

News > Local (/News/Local/)

CPA nixes society’s request for attorney fees

By SCOTT MERZBACH Staff Writer

Thursday, March 10, 2016

AMHERST MA ([KEYWORD?/KEYWORD=AMHERST MA])

AMHERST – The Amherst Historical Society is scrambling to find a funding source to pay an attorney to change the terms of a will because its request for Community Preservation Act money was turned down.

Representatives from the society said Tuesday that the decision, made by the CPA Committee Monday night, is not likely to jeopardize the potential sale of land by the society to the Jones Library for its planned expansion and renovation.

Georgia “Gigi” Barnhill, president of the society, called the committee’s decision “disheartening.”

“What the funds were needed for were clearing the title for the property and getting restrictions removed from the building,” Barnhill said.

A change is needed in the will of Sarah Emerson, who left the Strong House on Amity Street to the society, so that a portion of its 3/4-acre property can be sold.
In its application for CPA money, society president emeritus James Wald explained the predicament.

“We are a small nonprofit dependent upon donations, and the contributions that we receive from the community go toward operating costs and programming,” Wald wrote.

The CPA Committee voted 3-3, with two abstentions, to turn down the $18,000 request from the historical society that would have paid for legal expenses. The committee received advice from Shirin Everett, an attorney with town counsel Kopelman and Paige, that it was not an appropriate use of the account that goes toward affordable housing, historic preservation, open space and recreation.

“That is what swayed the vote,” said CPA Committee Chairwoman Mary Streeter. “It was a matter of how much weight to give the town counsel’s opinion. It was pretty clear it was not necessarily preservation.”

Streeter was joined by members James Oldham and Diana Stein in voting against using the money for legal fees, while James Brissette, Peter Jessop and Laura Lovett voted in favor. Paris Boice and Pari Riahi abstained.

The committee is making $2.09 million in spending recommendations, including $550,000 for the spray park at Groff Park, $227,248 for mortgage subsidies provided by Valley Community Development Corp, $200,000 for a fire sprinkler system at First Congregational Church and $190,000 for a fire suppression system at the Emily Dickinson Museum.

The committee’s decision comes as it continues negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the Jones Library, which is scheduled to be voted on by trustees at a meeting Thursday afternoon.

Any agreement between the library and historical society needs additional approvals from the public charities division in the state attorney general’s office and a probate court judge.

“We’re still going to have to proceed with this, but how we’ll fund it, I’m not sure,” Barnhill said.

Library Director Sharon Sharry has said in the past that if a portion of the society’s side yard cannot be obtained, the architect working on the library expansion may have to look to the
rear of the building, where the Kinsey Memorial Garden is located.

“If the judge doesn’t approve the sale of the property to the library, then our architects will design a renovated/expanded building using only the library’s back yard,” Sharry said.

The CPA Committee did unanimously recommend $20,000 in carpentry work at the museum, to be done before painting, and $4,500 for dendrochronology of the structure—the study of wood used in the building—which is to be completed by William Flynt of Historic Deerfield.

**Kinsey Memorial Garden**

Meanwhile, the CPA Committee decision comes as Town Meeting will be presented with a petition aimed at preserving the Kinsey Memorial Garden, which provides green space between the building and the CVS Pharmacy parking lot.

Carol Pope, who created the garden in 1999 as a memorial to her husband, David Kinsey, a UMass professor and gardener, said in an email that the petition is about saving the ‘valuable site.

“The worry is that a pending library expansion could encroach upon or even eradicate the garden,” Pope said.

Until 2014, Pope continued to improve the garden, adding what she describes as uncommon and aesthetically special plants she purchased. But since then maintenance has been done by the library facilities supervisor, causing the garden to already fall into demise.

The petition would also create a Kinsey Garden Committee whose members would be horticultural experts and garden enthusiasts overseeing the maintenance and enhancement of the garden.

Pope said the library should be making stronger connections to the history museum’s historic garden and a future green space that might be at the back side of the Central Fire Station.

“This is an era where downtown green spaces are highly prized, being added whenever possible, and seen as a major loss when taken from the community,” Pope said. “It is not a time for destroying enchanting gardens that already exist.”

Scott Merzbach can be reached at smerzbach@gazettenet.com.
Amherst library trustees approve agreement

By SCOTT MERZBACH Staff Writer
Friday, March 11, 2016

AMHERST MA (KEYWORD/KEYWORD=AMHERST MA)

AMHERST - Trustees for the Jones Library Thursday unanimously approved an agreement that would allow the Jones Library to expand onto property currently owned by the neighboring Amherst Historical Society.

This memorandum of understanding anticipates that a portion of the property at 67 Amity St., on which the Strong House museum sits, will be acquired by the library for its building project at 43 Amity St.

The agreement calls for good-faith negotiations before a payment is made for any land acquired.

Library Director Sharon Sharry said no financial terms have yet been discussed.

"We haven't started negotiating that piece yet," Sharry said.
Sharry said half of the land acquisition cost could be covered by a Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grant.

"None of this will happen if we don't get a construction grant from the MBLC," Sharry said, observing that the project also depends on approvals of spending by Town Meeting.

The agreement still must be signed by representatives from the historical society and the town of Amherst. The historical society board meets Tuesday, with the Select Board expected to take a vote later in March, Sharry said.

Even though a memorandum is in place, it does not commit trustees to a purchase or Finegold Alexander Architects of Boston, the company hired, to develop a plan using the property, said library trustees president Austin Sarat.

The agreement suggests that there could be a physical connection between the library and the Strong House, but Sharry said this probably would not be part of the building plan.

Still, the neighboring buildings could share climate-controlled archive storage space and processing areas for historic artifacts.

How soon any sale would happen is unclear, as the historical society has to go through a legal process to change the terms of the will by which it was bequeathed the Strong House. The society is seeking ways to pay the $18,000 in legal fees after the Community Preservation Act Committee earlier this week rejected this proposal.

In addition to the agreement, trustees are unanimously supporting an appeal from the historical society directors that will ask the Planning Board to bring a zoning change to a special Town Meeting this spring. That would change the zoning for the Strong House museum property from general residence to general business.

Library trustee Tamson Ely said this is needed to make sure that the museum property still conforms with town zoning bylaws if any land is bought.

Should the Strong House lot lose even a sliver of land, that would cause the residential lot to be in violation of town zoning, she said. "We cannot make them non-conforming," Ely said.

Sharry said the advice from the town's Planning Department is to rezone the entire Strong House property to general business zoning.
One other provision in the agreement addresses the historic garden at the Strong House. “Should the Historical Society’s 18th-century garden be affected by new construction, it will be relocated by the Historical Society,” the agreement reads.

This potential impact on that garden, as well as the Kinsey Memorial Garden in the back yard of the library, raised red flags for several members of the public who attended the meeting.

Sherry Wilson, a 30-year-member of the Garden Club of Amherst, read a statement from the club about the importance of preserving green space downtown.

“We urge the trustees to consider only expansion plans that respect the significance of the 18th-century and the Kinsey gardens,” Wilson said.

Wilson said there is a feeling that town and library officials do not fully understand this importance.

Tevis Kimball, former head of special collections at the Jones, said she has long appreciated both gardens. “The two are very powerful together,” Kimball said.

Sarat said trustees are considering aspects both inside and outside the library and that the building design subcommittee, which next meets March 24, is working with the architect to minimize disruptions to its property.

Scott Merzbach can be reached at smerzbach@gazettenet.com.

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Museum zoning change eyed in Amherst

By SCOTT MERZBACH
Staff Writer
Friday, March 25, 2016

AMHERST MA (/KEYWORD/?KEYWORD=AMHERST MA)

AMHERST – Trustees for the Jones Library and directors of the Amherst Historical Society are expected to formally seek a zoning change for the 67 Amity St. lot where the Strong House Museum is located.

Library trustees will meet with representatives from the society at 4:45 p.m. Monday, in the Amherst Room at the Jones Library, 43 Amity St., requesting that the Select Board add two articles to the warrant for annual Town Meeting, which begins May 2.

These articles are needed in case the library, which is planning an expansion and renovation, purchases a portion of its neighboring property for this project. Should the Strong House lose any portion of its land, it would fall out of compliance with town zoning.

The first article would create a restrictive covenant for 67 Amity St. that limits the use of the uses at the property to those customarily associated with a not-for-profit historical museum and a public library, while the second article would rezone the parcel from general residence to general business.

Library Director Sharon Sharry and Select Board member James Wald, emeritus president of the historical society, recently spoke to the Planning Board about the proposed zoning change.
Planning Board Chairman Stephen Schreiber said his board has not yet taken a position on whether to recommend the proposed zoning change.

Any zoning change requires a two-thirds vote of approval by Town Meeting.

Scott Merzbach can be reached at smerzbach@gazettenet.com.
Concern aired over preserving entire garden at Jones Library

Trustee raises concern about petition article that will be presented at Town Meeting
AMHERST - As a project to expand and renovate the Jones Library continues moving forward, library trustees are pledging to do what they can to preserve the Kinsey Memorial Garden, but are reluctant to make a commitment not to disturb it.

Austin Sarat, president of the trustees, issued a statement at the board's meeting Monday expressing concern about a petition article that will be presented at the annual Town Meeting recommending that the garden be untouched by the building project.

"Putting a restriction on any portion of our property would deny our design team the ability to use our building and grounds in the best way possible," Sarat said, adding that such a limitation "would unduly constrain the effort to provide the best possible library to the people of Amherst."

Finegold Alexander Architects of Boston, in conjunction with Kuhn Riddle Architects of Amherst, is charged with designing a building to meet the needs of patrons for the next 25 to 50 years. Both have been informed that care needs to be taken with respect to the Kinsey garden and an 18th-century garden at the neighboring Strong House Museum.

"From the outset, the design team has been told that the library's external spaces, the gardens and other open areas, are important components of the project," Sarat said.

The citizen petition comes from Carol Pope, who in 1999 designed the garden as a memorial to her late husband, David Kinsey.

"While there are many areas of the library that clearly require refurbishing and renovation, an expansion that threatens the valued green space, just when there are plans for establishing a cultural district, seems a definite mistake," Pope said in an email.
The Garden Club of Amherst has also expressed concern that the gardens may be lost during the project.

Sarat is assuring people that the end result will be a “garden vista which will inspire pride and be visible and accessible to the community” and that there will be community involvement throughout the process.

Meanwhile, trustees Monday agreed to a request by the Amherst Historical Society that they sponsor two land-related articles that will be considered by Town Meeting.

One will request a zoning change by the Amherst Historical Society for the Strong House property, at 67 Amity St., that would change the zoning of the site from general residence to general business. This is needed in case the Jones Library needs to purchase a portion of this land, which would cause the site to be out of compliance with zoning.

The second would establish a historic preservation restriction or deed covenant on the Strong House land to ensure the property would always be used for history-related projects and would not be affected by any other changes in the future.

Scott Merzbach can be reached at smerzbach@gazettenet.com.