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 26th day of February, 2016

Name of Person Submitting Report: Sharon Sharry

Signature of Person Submitting Report: [Signature]

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

### I. Project Funding

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>a</th>
<th>$50,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MPLCP Grant Funds Awarded</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Local/Other Funds Budgeted</td>
<td>b</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total; Funds Available (a+b)</td>
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### II. Expenditures to Date

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<th></th>
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<th>d</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MPLCP Grant Funds Expended to date</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Local/Other Funds Expended to date</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total Funds Expended (d+e)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Balance remaining to expend (c-f)</td>
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### III. MPLCP Funds Summary

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<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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<tr>
<td>Number of grant payments received</td>
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</tbody>
</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
January 2016

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 and a draft rendering of the proposed Library/Strong House connection.

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

3. We continued our “Listening Tour” as part of the Library’s upcoming Capital Campaign.

4. Scattered throughout the building are places for Library patrons to post comments about the building. We call it the “What do you like about this space” project.

5. The Board of Trustees of the Jones Library voted to hire Finegold Alexander Architects (FAA), of Boston, to serve as our project architect. FAA has sub-contracted with Kuhn Riddle Architects, of Amherst, to assist with the project.

6. Kept the Interim Town Manager, Dave Ziomek, apprised of our project’s progress, including discussions about abutting properties.

7. 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.
AMHERST — A Boston company that completed architectural designs for renovating and expanding the Holyoke Public Library will oversee a similar project for the Jones Library.

The Jones Library trustees Thursday voted unanimously to hire Finegold Alexander Architects to handle the work, following a recommendation from a subcommittee that narrowed the five architects who participated in public interviews in December to two finalists. The other finalist was Johnson Roberts Associates Inc. of Somerville.

Tamson Ely, a trustees representative to the subcommittee, said the preference was for Finegold Alexander because it has more staff and had completed the project in Holyoke, which blended new and old seamlessly. Ely said this could be a model for what happens at Jones.

"It was really pretty impressive" Ely said of the Holyoke project, observing that trustees want an architect to develop a plan that honors the history of the 88-year-old building in Amherst while modernizing it.

Trustees anticipate using a portion of a $50,000 planning and design grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, supplemented by
$25,000 appropriated by Town Meeting, to pay for the first building project since 1993. Then, a $4.6 million expansion added 12,000 square feet to create a 57,000-square-foot library.

Jones could expand to a 110,000-square-foot building that would address deficiencies in the current structure, including the lack of small, quiet study rooms, a computer training lab and a youth activities room. This project could cost up to $40 million, with a large portion paid by the state and through fundraising in the community.

James Alexander, principal for Finegold Alexander, Tony Hsiao, its principal designer, and Ellen Anselone, its project manager, participated in the interviews. Ely said it was evident they appreciate the constraints of the Jones Library property, which is just under an acre.

“We felt that they had a lot of relevant experience and they understood the site space restrictions,” Ely said.

Trustees are continuing to discuss acquiring land or partnering with the neighboring Amherst History Museum, located on about three-quarters of an acre, but no deal is yet in place.

Library officials have also pledged to preserve the Kinsey Memorial Garden, located at the rear of the library. The garden forms a buffer between the library and the public parking lot behind the CVS pharmacy at 76 North Pleasant St. But that side of the library is also the most logical space for expansion, since there is no interest in making changes to the front of the building facing Amity Street.

Finegold Alexander has earned awards, supports green design and is involved in the restoration of the Old Chapel on the University of Massachusetts campus, Ely said.

Trustees president Austin Sarat said he likes the strong local connections for the Boston company, with John Kuhn of Kuhn Riddle Architects in Amherst one of its consulting architects. Also, it has contracted with landscape architect Peter Wells of the Berkshire Design Group in Northampton.

Sarat added that he trusts there would not be significant change orders during the course of the project. “We were convinced they have adequate ability to do cost control,” Sarat said.

A schematic design completed by the architect will be submitted to the state library commissioners by Jan. 31, 2017, which would be followed by Town Meeting approval later that spring to seek a construction grant. According to the current schedule, construction would begin in July 2018 and conclude by Jan. 1, 2020.

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

A Listening Tour was conducted by volunteers and staff of the Jones Library to assess the community's knowledge of the Library's plans to undergo a major construction project. An additional goal of the Tour was to inform the participants about known features of the project, and to collect feedback about which aspects appeal most, and about potential areas of concern.

Through January 10, 2016, 33 unique interviews have been conducted with a total of 43 people (some participants were interviewed together). A broad cross-section of individual opinions were sought, including local business leaders, community activists, school administrators, senior citizens, and others. Participants were presented a document illustrating “Key Facts about the New Library” as part of the interview session.

Statistics from the participant surveys:

- 23 of 33 participants (70%) are active library users.
- 22 of 33 participants (67%) have visited a modernized library facility.
- 30 of 33 participants (91%) were familiar with the Library’s intention to build a new facility prior to the interview.
- 21 of 33 participants (63%) expressed support for the Library’s plan to build a new facility. The remaining 12 participants (37%) said they “may” support the project, or support some aspects and not others.
- 16 of 33 participants (48%) said they would be interested in volunteering for the project.

Participants noted the following features as being the “most appealing” for a new library facility:

- Community meeting space (8)
- Increased access to computers / technology (8)
- Larger children’s area (7)
- Collaborative work space (7)
- Reconfiguration of current space (5)
- Overall renovations (4)
- More space for ESOL program (4)
- A dedicated young adult area (4)
- Increased space for special collections (4)
- More overall space (3)
- Increased security / safety (3)
- More space for programs / services (2)
- Increased handicap accessibility (2)
- A modernized facility (2)
- More parking (2)
- Increase in use / circulation (2)
- Eliminating staircases
- Digital media lab
- No dripping water
- Safeguarding resources
- Positive economic impact on downtown
- Increased patronage
- Quiet study areas
- Sharon Sherry’s expertise
- Better lighting
- Green building
- Maker space

Participants were asked to express their concerns about the project:

- Cost / potential override (22)
- Lack of adequate parking (6)
- Other capital projects in town (5)
- Aesthetics / design concerns (5)
- Opposed to café (4)
- Loss of “honey” feel (4)
- Potential need for override (2)
- Preserving memorial garden (2)
- Lack of mission clarity / “mission creep” (2)
- Preserving Strong House (2)
- Too many bells & whistles
- Over reliance on technology
- Elimination of books
- Access to bathrooms
- Adding parking will encourage use of single occupancy vehicles
- Insufficient outreach to minorities
Q: Who Should Be Engaged in the Process?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town Meeting (4)</th>
<th>Downtown business owners (3)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Brubaker</td>
<td>Dave Williams</td>
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<td>Ann Whalen House</td>
<td>Kyle Wilson</td>
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<td>Town and State officials (3)</td>
<td>Nick Seamen</td>
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<td>Survival Center (2)</td>
<td>Nat Herold</td>
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<td>Senior Citizens (2)</td>
<td>Chris Blauvelt</td>
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<td>Sarah McKee</td>
<td>Jennifer Gunther-King</td>
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<td>Molly Turner</td>
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<td>Amherst Cinema Donors</td>
<td>Stan Rosenberg</td>
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<td>John Snowden</td>
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<td>Ed Wilfert</td>
<td>UMass Leadership</td>
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<td>Chris Riddle</td>
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<td>Neighbors</td>
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<td>Library staff</td>
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<td>Amherst Committees</td>
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<td>General public (3)</td>
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<td>Fiscal conservatives</td>
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<td>Other libraries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Schuman</td>
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<td>Business Improvement District (2)</td>
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<td>Amherst Together</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Johnson</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Sarah La Cour</td>
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<td>Don Courmanche</td>
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Other Comments:

“Access to Children’s Room shouldn't require an elevator.”

“Would it be cheaper to buy the bank building?”

“What will happen to the North Amherst Library?”

“This library may be very important, but other projects are critical for health and safety. Can it wait five years?”

“It’s going to take a little bit to get used to the notion of wholesale changes.”

“Books are back in, people don't like eBooks.”

“We want it to stay the way it is -- we don't want someone to come in and modernize it.”

“You're going to have to go for an override.”

“We have been talking about a new fire station for 20 years”.

“When I walk through the Jones, I see a lot of unoccupied space.”

“We want to update the library, but that doesn't need to come in the form of glass and metal.”

““If we get a new fire station, the building next door would make a wonderful children's room.”

“The North Amherst library needs expansion -- they have no bathroom.”

“Why not wait ten years?”

“The Jones is a much needed resource.”

“Take people to modernized libraries to show them what is possible.”

“You should be able to raise $2-3 million privately for this project.”

“The Jones is an important resource that should have the space it needs.”

“The ESL program needs more space.”

“In summer, the atrium is too hot and bright.”

“How much space can be gained by housing little-used materials offsite?”

“Have we asked schools and students how they will use more space?”

“Is the Jones the best place for community meeting space?”
“Why isn’t the Jones thinking about the fire station or the first national bank building or the Strong House instead of new construction?”

“We should not count on much coming from town government.”

“The Jones should not have to have to meet all of the meeting space needs of the town.”

“Tweak the building as little as possible.”

“More public space should be very carefully reviewed in this era of cost control.”

“Collections should be properly housed, and they will only grow.”

“The Jones should have a sound building, particularly in an academic community such as Amherst.”

“Children love crowded chaos.”

“Idiosyncratic décor is good, don’t make it look like a HoJo’s.”

“The Jones could provide many more programs in the arts for small children.”

“I’m concerned about the other branches -- they need help.”

“The renovation should make the building as energy efficient as possible.”

“Make sure the design works for the town.”

“Do we need to expand?”

“Focus on library needs, not extras like a café.”

“Could the ESL program be located elsewhere?”

“Will all of the branches be renovated?”

“Why is there so much fuss over keeping the memorial garden?”

“The library should be a showcase for green energy.”

“The latches on the women’s room stalls have been broken for a really long time, why have they never been fixed?”

“Jones can keep its homey feel and still be modern.”

“Put Adirondack chairs outside in the summer.”

“What is the strategic plan?”

“The Jones should be using Twitter and Instagram to promote whatever is going on.”
“Circulation is currently a complete logjam.”

“Don't touch the facades, the building needs to look the same in the front.”

“Have sessions for the public to show the current state of the library.”

Preliminary Concluding Thoughts

The Listening Tour concept is proving to be a good source of information from the community about the current sentiment toward the Jones Library renovation and expansion. Furthermore, it is a useful mechanism for library advocates to deploy in order to train themselves on how to discuss the project and to answer important questions that community members have about the project.

Clearly, the financial implications on the Town capital budget are a key concern of many interviewees. Developing the strongest case for the project, and fully explaining why the facility improvements need to be done following MBLC guidelines are going to be important factors in motivating the community to support the project at Town Meeting and through private funding.

At this point, it would seem prudent to reconvene the listeners to share the combined data in this report and to determine whether and how to continue the Tour.

It could also be useful to share this report with the project design team.