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 31 day of March, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MPLCP Grant Funds Awarded</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Local/Other Funds Budgeted</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total; Funds Available (a+b)</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## II. Expenditures to Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MPLCP Grant Funds Expended to date</td>
<td>$5,472.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Local/Other Funds Expended to date</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total Funds Expended (d+e)</td>
<td>$5,472.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Balance remaining to expend (c-f)</td>
<td>$69,527.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## III. MPLCP Funds Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total MPLCP Grants Funds received to date</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total MPLCP Grant Funds Remaining in Local</td>
<td>$44,527.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts (c - d)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of grant payments received: 3

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
February 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 (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.

6. Design Subcommittee meeting, a publicly posted meeting, held. This meeting was well-attended by the public and staff.

7. Worked with the architects on our Building Program, and worked with our Owner’s Project Manager on the budget. Discussions were held to begin aligning the budget with the Program.

8. Presented an update on the Library’s Planning and Design project to the Town’s Joint Capital Planning Committee.

9. Met with the new Vice President of PeoplesBank regarding our building project.

10. Met with a reporter from the Republican regarding our building project.

11. Met with the Town’s new Economic Development Director, Geoffrey Kravitz, regarding our building project.

12. Discussed with the Town the timing of the Library project override. We expect to ask the Town for their share of the project cost no sooner than the fall of 2017, after the construction grant awards are announced.

13. Submitted our final “Request for Payment” packet for the Planning and Design grant.

14. Discussed with the AHS the MOU, project timeline, and issues regarding the Kinsey Memorial and 18th Century Gardens.
‘Percent for Art’ proposal heads to Amherst Town Meeting

By SCOTT MERZBACH
Staff Writer
Monday, February 8, 2016
(Published in print: Tuesday, February 9, 2016)

AMHERST — A program that would pay for public art to be incorporated into large capital projects will come before Town Meeting this spring.

Though the Select Board Monday indicated it would not sponsor the warrant article, members of the Public Art Commission said they intend to bring a bylaw for a program it is calling “Percent for Art” to the town’s legislative body.

Such a bylaw would allow the town to designate 1 percent of the construction costs for new or renovated municipal buildings to go toward public art.

According to the draft bylaw, its approval would “direct the integration of artwork into public spaces and public works projects in the town of Amherst through a well-administered and appropriately funded public art program.”

This is modeled after one in Cambridge, where a city ordinance requires that 1 percent of construction costs on city capital investments be used for developing public art.

Eric Broudy, a member of the commission, said the proposal comes at a time when the town is considering numerous building projects, including an expanded Wildwood School, a renovated and expanded Jones Library, a potential new Department of Public Works headquarters and a new fire station for South Amherst.

As an example, if the town spends $20 million on the new Wildwood, the Percent for Art would require an additional $200,000 be spent on public art associated with the building.

Though the proposal comes at a cost to taxpayers, it would have a positive impact on businesses, tourism and property values, Broudy said.

Some of the money collected would go toward maintenance, publicity and administration, Broudy said.

Select Board member Jarres Wald said the Percent for Art is similar to the Community Preservation Act.
surcharge, which helps pay for projects that are valued in town, including preserving historic buildings and open space.

But the challenge will be to explain to voters why this should be adopted when the town and schools are struggling to keep level services, Chairwoman Alisa Brewer said.

Though board members have not yet taken a position on the concept, Brewer said she has no problem with it going to Town Meeting.

"You should feel well assured you're on the way to getting this on the warrant," Brewer said.

Broudy said he hopes the board will eventually sponsor or endorse the article.

"It seems the Select Board sponsors this, it carries more weight," Broudy said.

The Select Board will have a hearing on the proposed bylaw in spring.

Alcohol license transfer

Meanwhile, the board unanimously approved the transfer of an all-alcohol license for the Ginger Garden restaurant at 351 Northampton Road.

The transfer, pending approval from Police Chief Scott Livingstone, allows the license for the 6,300-square-foot restaurant to be sold from Amherst Gourmet Inc. to Ginger Garden Restaurant Amherst Inc., managed by Xue Zhun Zhang.

Brad Shimel, a Northampton attorney, said there would "no real fundamental changes" at the restaurant, with only some "sprucing up."

As a representative to the Campus and Community Coalition to reduce High Risk Drinking, Select Board member Andrew Steinberg said he is concerned about a new owner's protocols after the recent two-day license suspension the board handed down to Panda East after it served underage drinkers last fall.

Shimel assured the board that Zhang, who has managed restaurants in Florida and Illinois, and his staff would be trained in serving alcohol and is aware that the restaurant is in a college community.

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

Source URL:http://www.gazettenet.com/home/20961043-95/percent-for-art-proposal-heads-to-amherst-town-meeting
Jones Library negotiates with Amherst Historical Society over acquiring land for expansion

By SCOTT MERZBACH
Staff Writer
Thursday, February 11, 2016
(Published in print: Friday, February 12, 2016)

AMHERST — Jones Library and Amherst Historical Society officials are nearing an agreement for the library to acquire a portion of the neighboring ¾-acre property to accommodate a proposed expansion and renovation project.

Library Director Sharon Sharry said in an email Wednesday that she anticipates a memorandum of understanding will be approved by the society’s board by March 1, which will be followed by Jones Library trustees endorsing the agreement at their March 10 meeting.

"The (memorandum) will probably go back and forth a couple times between the parties, and at some point in February the historical society board will need to vote its approval," Sharry said.

But any agreement also needs additional approvals from the public charities division in the state attorney general’s office and a probate court judge, said James Wald, president emeritus of the society.

Sharry said Assistant Town Manager David Ziemek is sketching what an expanded footprint for the library might look like. This sketch will accompany the agreement and be reviewed by the judge.

"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.

Sharry said the memorandum of understanding will focus on four areas, including what portion of the historical society grounds will be sold, how much the society will be paid, whether the library and Strong House museum will be connected physically and how the organizations will be linked programmatically.

Both organizations met Tuesday to begin discussing the process, with representatives including library trustees Tamson Ely and Jonathan McCabe, library facilities director George Hicks and library curator Cynd Harbeson, along with society president Georgia "Gigi" Barnhill, society board members Bonnie MacCracker
and Wald, and society curator Marianne Curling.

The current draft agreement is being reviewed by town counsel Kopelman and Paige.

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

Source URL: http://www.gazettenet.com/home/20990768-95/jones-library-negotiates-with-amherst-historical-society-over-acquiring-land-for-expansion
Jones Library and Strong House museum in Amherst near agreement

By SCOTT MERZBACH Staff Writer

AMHERST — Officials representing the Jones Library and the Strong House museum, buildings which are on neighboring properties downtown, are nearing an agreement essential to the library's planned expansion and renovation.

The Buildings and Facilities subcommittee of the Jones Library trustees will meet with Amherst Historical Society representatives at 1 p.m. Tuesday to discuss, and possibly sign, a memorandum of understanding between the long time institutions, said Library Director Sharon Sherry.

James Wald, a member of the Select Board and president of the society that oversees the 1750s-era Strong House, said Friday that a pact is close following more than a year of serious exploration of a formal relationship.

"We're moving forward with consultation with a lawyer who's been drafting the documents we'll need for this legal process," Wald said.

While Wald is not sure a document will be signed, he understands the sense of urgency for the library, which recently selected Finegold Alexander Architects of Boston to complete a building program that should be complete later this year. The library project could cost up to $40 million, depending on the size of the expansion and extent of renovations needed.

Having an agreement in place will allow the architect to possibly explore use of the adjacent property. A schematic design completed by the architect needs to be submitted to the state library commissioners by Jan. 31, 2017, and Town Meeting would be asked to approve the project 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.

Jones has a limited site, about three-quarters of an acre, with constraints both at the front, with the Amity Street facade remaining largely unchanged since the building was constructed in 1928, and the rear side featuring the David Chapin Kinsey Memorial Garden that buffers the building from the parking lot behind the CVS Pharmacy.

It remains uncertain how close a relationship the two institutions would have if an agreement is signed and whether there will be a physical connection between the two buildings. Some have advocated for this connection as both have missions of preserving the past, with the special collections at Jones holding numerous documents related to Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost, while the museum houses around 7,000 objects, with the most famous being a white dress worn by Dickinson.

But even if not a physical connection, there could be use of a portion of the Strong House property, which prompted the start of an archaeological survey last fall of the entire site. This included use of a ground-penetrating radar that will supplement and expand upon the knowledge people already have about the property, including a study done 25 years ago when the Jones Library last underwent an expansion, and test pits dug in 2011. An archaeological dig is scheduled for spring.

Such a relationship and possible merger between the two groups started being considered about five years ago during a long-range study conducted by the historical society.

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