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 23rd day of August, 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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>MPLCP Grant Funds Awarded</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Local/Other Funds Budgeted</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Total Funds Available (a+b)</td>
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#### II. Expenditures to Date

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

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<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 Accounts</td>
<td>(a-d)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of grant payments received</td>
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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. 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 Interim Town Manager, Peter Hechenbleikner, and the Town's Assistant Town Manager, Dave Ziemek, 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 an All Staff Design Meeting, in order to "walk" staff through the new designs and allow for additional staff input. Staff input was delivered to the architects.

5. Patron comments/questions/concerns were responded to via email and during meetings.

6. Received and responded to two Informal Document Requests.

7. Library Trustees wrote Letters to the Editor.

8. On July 18, 2016, Jon McCabe, Library Trustee for four years, resigned due to the actions of several obstructionist members of the community.

9. The Geotech test borings occurred on July 22, 2016. A few plants were moved beforehand, so they would not be in the way of the truck. No problems were encountered.

10. Gave a tour of the original portion of the Library to four members of the "Save our Library" group.

11. Held a third public information session.
Commentary /Commentary/

Robert Pam: Jones Library must evolve with times

By ROBERT PAM
Thursday, June 30, 2016

I am a trustee of the Jones Library in Amherst, and its treasurer. Recent discussions about
future improvements to the library have focused more on the uncertainties that are natural
at this stage of planning than on our shared objectives and hopes for the library. I hope that
clarifying the picture will relieve at least some of the concerns I have heard about our work.

The mission of the Jones Library is to provide access to the world’s intellectual and cultural
riches through its collection, programming and its connections to external resources. Its
primary focus is on the needs and desires of the people of Amherst and visitors from
surrounding areas who come for work and pleasure. As trustees we must consider both the
present and future needs of the town and the library.

The Jones is fortunate to own land in the center of Amherst sufficient to house a building
capable of meeting most of these needs for the next several generations. Unfortunately, the
current size and configuration of the building won’t do it.

The original building constructed 90 years ago, including its expansion 25 years ago, doesn’t
satisfy patron and staff needs for space, access, resources, security or comfort, and
inefficient systems waste money and energy. Some of these problems can only be solved by
a major renovation. The prior renovation was largely funded by a state grant and by our
selling a valuable painting; today we will seek grants and donations to reduce the town’s
contribution.

Research and reference has shifted from paper and microfilm to constantly evolving
electronic forms, requiring more flexibility, seating, electrical power and privacy
arrangements.

Children and teens need inviting safe public spaces more than ever, and those spaces must
differ from other library spaces in terms of noise, activity level, programming and
supervision.

Space is inadequate for our Amherst-related literary and historical Special Collection, our
nationally recognized English as a Second Language program, and for our many programs
and local meetings.

Patrons with modest means and those with physical disabilities will benefit the most from all aspects of an improved facility.

The Jones was originally designed to look like a welcoming home for all who see or visit it. We intend to maintain that look and feel. The grounds help us achieve a calm and welcoming environment, and over the years we have, and will, welcome suggestions and support.

With regard to the fate of the gardens in the rear of the library I would offer the following summary:

I believe major improvements to the Jones are necessary and appropriate. The most efficient and economical way to do them is through a single renovation, particularly if the commonwealth will fund part of it.

I believe that meeting the needs of Amherst and curing the defects of the current structure will require some expansion. The library's architects have been instructed to keep the façade and internal appearance of the original building to the maximum extent possible. I and others continue to press our architects to find solutions that will work with the least additional space and lowest cost.

A project like this unavoidably involves some demolition and construction, which will require space for waste and supplies, and for equipment to maneuver and be stored. Realistically, these must take place in the rear of the library.

The process will create dust and debris which will close the library for a period of time for the safety of patrons and staff, and would likely be equally dangerous to current plantings and landscaping.

Consequently, for the library to carry out its mission, the existing garden may have to be reshaped and/or relocated as needed. In the meantime the library will work with anyone to maintain and improve the current Kinsey Garden and other grounds of the library.

This is why the library has argued strongly for an opportunity to evaluate alternatives and prepare designs before making any commitments regarding the grounds surrounding our home.

We haven't received any designs yet. I understand the frustration of being unable to review a plan, but that is the price of early involvement in the process. I believe most people involved in the debates agree on the desirability of achieving the improvements I described.

We don't know how many of our hopes can be realized. But whether this process takes one year or 10, the Jones Library trustees understand that we depend on the respect and generosity of neighbors for everything we do, and will not willingly jeopardize those relationships.

Robert Pam lives in Amherst. Views expressed here are his own, not those of the Jones
trustees.
News > Local (/News/Local/)

Jones Library trustee to quit over project backlash

By SCOTT MERZBACH  
Staff Writer  
Friday, July 15, 2016

AMHERST — A Jones Library trustee frustrated by community backlash over the planned expansion of the building on Amity Street says he's resigning from the board.

Jonathan McCabe said in a telephone interview Friday that he intends to submit his resignation to the town clerk's office Monday, at which time he will also release a more detailed statement about his reasons for departing from the six-member board after more than three years as a trustee.

McCabe said he still strongly believes in the plans being developed for the library, which would add 20,000 square feet to create a 68,000-square-foot building to meet the demands of the community and the needs of the staff.

"I still plan to be very active in supporting the library project," McCabe said, adding that taking time away from the trustees will allow him to focus more on his 6-year-old daughter.

At Thursday's trustees meeting, McCabe, first elected in 2013 and re-elected in March, read a statement that he has always tried "to do right by the Jones Library and the town."

Yet McCabe said he has witnessed a small number of people making personal attacks on Library Director Sharon Sharry and undermining the legitimacy of other people who are focused on the project.

He then left the meeting, indicating that he would be with his wife and daughter at a municipal pool.

"See you at the pool, everyone," McCabe said as he walked out from the Goodwin Room, where trustees meetings are held.

Austin Sarat, president of the trustees, praised McCabe for his service to the library and Amherst.

"He's served on the board with distinction and done more than his share of work that we've been asked to do," Sarat said.

"I worry that his absence comes from not just a sense he's being told he's wrong, (but) he's not doing his job, that he's negligent," Sarat added.
Sharry, who wiped away tears as McCabe read his statement, said she would not comment, other than to say “I’m happy for him.”

If McCabe follows through with his resignation, his successor would be selected at a joint meeting of the remaining trustees and Select Board and that person would serve until the 2017 annual town election.

**Scope of project criticized**

Library officials have faced criticism over the scope of the project, estimated at $32.5 million. Some $12.5 million of that total would be in the form of state support from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Town Meeting in the spring rejected rezoning of the neighboring Strong House, a move needed to allow the Jones to make a land purchase related to the expansion.

At that same Town Meeting, voters also approved an article asking for preservation of most of the Kinsey Memorial Garden, which forms the backyard of the library.

Sarat said trustees remain committed to the project, observing that a preliminary evaluation of Sharry by the trustees’ Personnel, Planning and Policy Committee praises her for “extraordinary efforts” related to the expansion and renovation of the building.

Trustees, Sharry and library staff have created a building program that indicates a need for additional space. A letter of intent for the project will be submitted to the state library commissioners by Oct. 7.

Finegold Alexander Architects is beginning to work on schematics for the expansion, and trustee Tamson Ely said plans also are underway to develop a cost estimate for only doing renovations to the library, without an expansion.

Meanwhile, trustees agreed to have Financial Development Agency, Inc. of Amherst, which already is assisting the library with a long-term strategic development plan, lead what is known as a fundraising campaign feasibility study.

During this study, the company will do about 50 interviews in September with residents, a cross section that includes many supporters and some opponents of the library project.

“It’s designed to have a dialogue with key folks in the community and coalesce into a report for a campaign recommendation,” said Matthew A. Blumenfeld, principal at the agency.

He said the campaign plan will include fundraising and communication strategies, observing that his company helped raise money and build support for the Holyoke and West Springfield public library projects.

Blumenfeld said his company is endorsing the library expansion.

“We think this is a strong program and needed in town,” Blumenfeld said.

He added that he is confident the work will yield generosity from the community.

The contract, which has not yet been negotiated or reviewed by town counsel, calls for
paying FDA $24,750.

Sarat said he expects FDA to face challenges in its work, noting that controversies surrounding the project have brought even some people who love the library to be saying the equivalent of “pox on their house.”

Ely said it is important that residents hear from more than just people with narrow views in opposition to the project.

Whatever happens with the project will be the will of the people, Sarat said. “I’m in favor of whatever library the citizens of Amherst want to have,” he added.

Scott Merzbach can be reached at smerzbach@gazettenet.com.
Jones Library trustee formally resigns
By SCOTT MERZBACH  
Staff Writer  
Monday, July 18, 2016  

AMHERST — An elected trustee for the Jones Library resigned Monday, informing the town clerk’s office that time constraints prevent him from continuing as part of the six-member board.  

Jonathan McCabe, of 57 Glendale Road, also issued a statement blaming Amherst’s “Tea Party” for trying to stop a project to renovate and expand the library building, and that he can be a more effective advocate as a member of the “peanut gallery” outside the limitations imposed by the board.  

“I would prefer to confront these folks as a fellow citizen rather than as a minor elected official,” McCabe wrote.  

Library Director Sharon Sharry, the Select Board, and town manager’s office were all notified about the resignation, said Assistant Town Clerk Susan Audette.  

Town Clerk Sandra Burgess said the elected boards will determine how to proceed with filling the vacancy.  

“What is done and when it is done will be up to the Select Board and Library Trustees,” Burgess said.  

In the past, the boards have solicited applications from the public and then made joint appointments to fill the remainder of the term.  

McCabe said he enjoyed serving on the trustees and Joint Capital Planning Committee. He was first elected as a trustee as a write-in candidate in 2013, and was reelected without opposition in March.  

“At the same time, I have grown deeply tired of dealing with the small group of obstructionists in town who seem to relish making civic engagement and public service as unpleasant as possible,” McCabe wrote. “These people are harming Amherst, and they need to be challenged.”  

Scott Merzbach can be reached at smerzbach@gazettenet.com.
Jones Library, garden need preservation

This letter is in response to a guest column in the June 17th Amherst Bulletin. First, I and other members of the Save Our Library Group support a total renovation within the existing footprint of the Jones Library, arguably, the most beautiful building in Amherst.

Second, far from residents not being respectful of professionals, in past years there has been an overreliance on outside consultants and "expert opinion," which resulted in a previous Jones Library expansion in the 1970s being torn down for another expansion in the 1980s.

The loan on the 1980s renovation was just paid off in 2010 and the current proposal would tear down nearly 75 percent of the 1980s addition. Amherst cannot afford to repeat this wasteful pattern.

Third, Amherst residents have been told to "keep an open mind," but it's more relevant that those pushing for a larger space "think outside the box" by designing more efficient use of space within the box of the existing footprint.

One example would be replacing the 1990s leaky atrium with a clerestory roof, which would provide enough sunlight, allow the addition of solar panels, provide abundant indirect sunlight and keep the aesthetic lines of the 1990s renovation.

Finally, focusing on reconfiguring the existing space would allow a more holistic approach to programming needs by including two branch libraries.

Why does the main library need to do everything? This would be a more reasoned, budget-friendly approach that would maintain the exterior of Jones along with keeping intact the Kinsey Memorial Garden, a rare green space sorely needed in downtown Amherst.

Amherst

I urge Library Trustees to scrap the current proposal and work on a plan that reflects Amherst's values towards repurposing.

Bigger does not equal better. The rapidly evolving role of libraries makes this philosophy an even greater imperative.

PEGGY MATTHEWS-NILSEN
Amherst

Don't vandalize one of town's iconic spaces

Jones Library Trustee Tamson Ely's guest column in the June 17th Amherst Bulletin criticizes those of us whom she calls "outspoken opponents to any changes to the Jones ... not willing to wait and see what the architects design."

Neither I, nor anyone I know, opposes "changes to the Jones ...." We are vividly aware of the building's serious accessibility, electrical, HVAC, insulation, layout, leakage, mechanical, safety, and, in certain respects, space issues. The town needs an energy-efficient Jones Library building that functions elegantly for patrons and staff.

SARAN MCKEE
Amherst
Plan for Jones Library in Amherst gets mixed reviews

By SCOTT MERZBACH  
Staff Writer  

Thursday, July 28, 2016

AMHERST - A building aimed at meeting the needs of the Amherst community, with extensive natural light and a more open floor plan that is easier for patrons to navigate and for staff to manage, is depicted by the preliminary plan for an expanded and renovated Jones Library.

With an Oct. 7 deadline looming to submit schematic drawings and a project cost estimate to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, a building information session Wednesday evening was the first opportunity for residents to see how the 1928 original building would be altered and the more recent 1990s addition, including the atrium, would be demolished and replaced.

About 25 people attended the 90-minute session.

The current plan adds about 17,000 square feet to the 48,000-square-foot building, said Tony Hsiao, principal at Finegold Alexander Architects of Boston.

Based on the building program, developed with participation by library staff and patrons, the expanded building would be just under 65,000 square feet, Hsiao said, adding that there would be "no easy way to work within the existing footprint."

The plan shows a centrally located single staircase and elevator connecting all four levels the building.

On the ground level, or garden level as Hsiao calls it, the expanded building would include space for its English as a Second Language program, the special collections department and the technical services department where materials are delivered.

On the main level, the circulation desk is moved closer to the Amity Street entrance, with a cafe area on the opposite side, where people can drink coffee and pastries purchased at downtown shops. A large children's room and a smaller distinct young adult space would be on this floor, along with meeting room that can accommodate 200 people and can be closed off from the rest of the library for after-hours use.

On the second floor, the entire adult collection would be housed below what Hsiao describes as a sawtooth-style roof featuring windows facing north and solar panels facing...
south. This new area would be attached to the second floor of the original 1928 building, where interior walls will be taken down so that a large reading room is created overlooking Amity Street.

The small third floor will retain the existing Goodwin Room and staff offices.

Hsiao said the plan addresses functional issues, such as the circulation desk being too distant from the main entrance and the lack of space for teenagers, and more serious problems, such as stacks too close together, making them inaccessible to handicapped people.

William Wehrli, of Carriage Lane, said the concept appears to make the library more welcoming for all users, especially teenagers.

"I think it's really time to move forward," Wehrli said. "This is the commonsand we really need to make these spaces work for people."

His daughter, Christina Wehrli, who will be a ninth grader at Amherst Regional High School in the fall, said she uses the library, but isn't often able to stay because of insufficient space. "I mainly go and get books and then leave," she said.

She said a larger library would be attractive for her and her friends as a central meeting place after school or on the weekends.

Cheryl Wilson, a former trustees president, said she is impressed with the plan, but disappointed with the modern appearance, including too much use of glass, and the loss of the home-style elements incorporated into the original design by its benefactor, Samuel Minot Jones.

"What has always appealed to long-time residents is the rabbit warren kind of feel," Wilson said.

Others also expressed concerns about changing the charm of the building and its nooks and crannies.

"Every time I see this I cry," said Hilda Greenbaum of Montague Road, pointing to what she views as a devastating loss of the historic interior of the 1928 building, including removal of the grand staircase that people see when going through the main door.

But Hsiao said this historical staircase will be reused in the addition and placed against what was formerly the exterior of the 88-year-old building, so patrons can see and honor the original building.

Save Our Library member Mary Wentworth of Lessey Street said her worry is demolition of 40 percent of the building and loss of cozy areas, like the alcove beneath the staircase. She described the plan as "basically (gutting) the rest of it."

Finegold Alexander has indicated it will need six weeks to complete the drawings, two weeks to get cost estimates and one week to verify those estimates. After the October submission, the next step will be submitting a construction grant application in January.
To see the plan online, visit http://www.joneslibrary.org/buildingproject.

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