1. Multiple meetings were held throughout the month by the Library Trustees, Building Committee, Town Council, and Finance Committee regarding an updated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Town Manager and the Library Trustees. The MOA will allow the project to continue through receipt of construction bids (because the Trustees will be agreeing to pay the costs over the next year if the project fails to proceed past bid-opening). Once the true project cost is determined, based on bids received in January 2024, Town Council will vote on the new total project cost (i.e., if it is higher than the originally approved total project cost of $36.3 million).

2. In order to satisfy MBLC and staff design concerns, an amended contract for additional design services with Finegold Alexander Architects was signed.

3. $1.9 million in value management cuts were approved including using synthetic slate on the roof and eliminating the sawtooth roof feature. Based on the reconciled summer 2022 cost estimate, the project cost now stands at $46.5 million.

4. Multiple meetings were held throughout the month regarding an initiative to secure additional funding from the state for the 15 library projects which are experiencing COVID-related cost escalation. In terms of advocacy efforts, the Jones Library Trustees sent a letter to Trustees from across the state; passed a resolution calling for additional state funding; and sent a memo to Town Council requesting they join in the advocacy efforts. This topic was discussed during Senator Comerford’s Library Tour which was held at the Jones, as well as during a Massachusetts Municipal Association Legislative Breakfast, also held at the Jones. Senator Comerford and Representative Domb have been fierce advocates for this effort.