

This Week at the Jones Library: April 11 - 17 Inbox x



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Jones Library News

Jones Library Building Project

Town Council Greenlights Building Project!

After nearly ten years of planning by staff, Trustees and dozens of other volunteers; countless public presentations; numerous iterations in schematic design aided by the Massachusetts Library System and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (including the provisional award of \$13.8 million toward its cost); and a protracted and exhaustive analysis of its costs, the Amherst Town Council, on Monday, April 5, 2021, took the historic step of decisively (10-2-1) approving the Library's renovation/expansion plan by appropriating the Town's \$15.8 million share of the cost. The Council also authorized the Town to enter into an agreement with the Library's Trustees to supply the remaining \$6.6 million of the total cost of the project.

In approving the project, Councilors particularly noted how it will advance the Town's climate goals with a net zero ready building; make the building accessible to all citizens of the Town; provide safe and workable spaces for all of the Library's children's programs, including those for teens who have no space of their own; expand computer access for those without computers; provide adequate space for those served by the Library's ESL program; and revive the Jones as the center of a community that, as proven during the pandemic, craves the kind of civic life that only a library can provide.

By acting now, the Town Council will allow a June 30 distribution of the first \$2.7 million from the MBLC grant, allow design development to begin immediately, and construction to begin in mid-2022. Every year's delay adds approximately \$1.6 million in construction escalation costs.

All of us at the Jones look forward to welcoming all Town residents to a library that, once again, meets their needs.

Jones Library Expansion & Renovation Project Timeline
14-Jan-21

Date	Design Development & Construction Documents	Bid Phase	Construction	Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment & Move	Closeout
2021					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
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2022					
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