



October 17, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul Bockelman

FROM: Lee Edwards and Kent Faerber, Co-Chairs, Jones Library Capital Campaign, Friends of the Jones Library System, Inc.

RE: Requested Report on Campaign Fundraising

The Jones Library Capital Campaign Committee is happy to provide this interim report.

For more than a year, the Campaign was unable to maintain its original trajectory because the fate of the project was wholly uncertain;

- From April, 2024, when only one unacceptable bid was received,
- Through the decision to re-bid after a lengthy "value engineering" process and the various Town Council and Town Committee processes attendant on that,
- Through the receipt of a bid within budget in October, 2024,
- Through the subsequent historic preservation review required before acceptance of the bid at the end of the following April, 2025,
- Through the revocation of the \$1M NEH Grant on May 6, 2025
- To the final confirmation of the HUD earmark on July 15, 2025

Such a hiatus would be unthinkable in any other fundraising campaign, and, while vigorous attempts were made to educate and cultivate potential donors, it was not possible to get any prospect to consider a major commitment under these circumstances. Furthermore, it was exceedingly difficult to keep the dozens of volunteers who had been working on the Campaign committed and engaged. In addition, the Campaign experienced a complete change in its small staff over the summer of 2025. Nevertheless, because of the Campaign's momentum and the strength of its support within the community, the total committed (or given) went from \$6,920,437 at the end of April, 2024, to \$7,986,498 at the end of August, 2025.

A note about the numbers: As part of their revival of the Campaign over the summer, the Campaign leadership determined to attribute more carefully the sources of funds for the Building Project than had been reported prior to that. While the Campaign had a major role in securing the supplemental grant of \$1,694,518 from the MBLC, our legislators and Town Councilors were also involved, and, of course, the MBLC deserves the credit for stretching its rules in recognition of the special circumstances posed by the pandemic. Accordingly, Campaign reports no longer include that supplemental grant in the total reported for the Campaign. No part of this \$1,694,518 has been lost. This re-attribution makes clear that the funding for the \$46.1 million project will be more or less equally distributed between the Town (\$15.8 million), the MBLC (\$15.5 million), and the Capital Campaign (\$15.8 million, including its estimated expenses). The Campaign totals cited in the previous paragraph do not include any part of the MBLC grant, or the NEH grant.

The total of gifts and commitments as of the end of August, 2025, was more than half-way toward the Campaign's goal of \$15.8 million; this is normal for the beginning of the public phase of such a Campaign.

Under these stop and start circumstances, particularly where large commitments play such an outsized role, monthly reports of gifts are misleading as to its progress. As an example, a \$500,000 new commitment was recorded in September, increasing the total to \$8,487,300.

While these totals include pledges, the cash flow of gifts is equally encouraging in relation to the Library Trustees' obligation under the MOA with the Town. Some donors have continued to make gifts toward their pledges even throughout this period of uncertainty, and the following analysis summarizes progress toward the \$15.8M Trustees' final cash obligation.

Amounts Paid Or Available Toward Trustees' Cash Obligation Under MOU (a/o 10/1/25)				
Friends Fundraising Receipts to Town			\$ 1,750,000.00	
Library Fundraising Receipts to Town			\$ 1,960,661.00	Earmark, Bequests, Woodbury Fund, HUD
CPA Payable			\$ 1,000,000.00	
Pledge Balances			\$ 3,301,019.00	
Expenses of Project Paid by Friends or Town*			\$ 588,181.52	Arch Fees, Easement, moving
		TOTAL	\$ 8,599,861.52	

*Expenses paid are those included in \$46.1M budget for project.

The remaining amount needed to meet the \$15.8M Library commitment would be within the Library's \$9M endowment **even if no further funds are raised**. Such a result is unimaginable, but even under that worst-case scenario, the Town's commitment will be capped at the same amount proposed in 2017; "not one penny more."

The Capital Campaign Committee has now re-formed, has identified its prospects (including major gift and grant opportunities), and has begun their active cultivations and solicitations. In addition, because of delays of one kind or another, the Campaign has been prolonged to such an extraordinary extent that an entirely new generation of potential donors has come on line. Accordingly, the Campaign has begun to identify, organize and mobilize them with the same success as when it started seven years ago.

Amherst is a diverse community, but it is continually evolving, and has a robust component with the means and generosity to complete this Campaign. While the task ahead is not small, the Campaign Committee remains no less optimistic that it can reach its goal than it has ever been.