

From: Amherst Forward Chair Katherine Appy
Date: Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 6:00 AM
Subject: ALERT: Special Council Meeting Monday to Kill Library Project
To:



As many of you may know, the town is so close to finally realizing our goal of a renovated and expanded Jones Library. Please take a moment to read the email below from Ginny Hamilton, the campaign manager for the Jones Library Capital Campaign, and then (once again!) make a plan to attend Monday's meeting and write to your Councilors.

Filling out the form ensures that your comments will be included with the meeting packet. Let your Councilors know that accepting state, federal, and private funds for this project is still by far the most financially responsible way to address the myriad issues with the Jones Library building.

Dear Library Project Supporters,

I can't believe I'm having to send you this email. Councilors Schoen, Hegner, and Taub have called a special Town Council meeting for Monday night to introduce a motion to rescind the borrowing authorization for the Jones Library Renovation & Expansion. The situation continues to evolve. For instance, Councilors are confirming whether a simple or 2/3 majority would be needed to overturn borrowing authorization. Even so, these details are clear:

- The Project's standard federal regulatory reviews are almost complete.
- Town Hall is very close to finalizing a construction contract.
- The Trustees remain committed to securing the funding necessary beyond Town & MBLC commitments.
- And opponents continue to fight the project.

Opponents have already flooded Council with over 100 emails calling for them to end the project. We are therefore asking project supporters – especially people like you who have donated and pledged – to show up and speak in favor of continuing.

Two notes on our federal funding:

- The Library's NEH grant has not been cancelled. I by no means want to downplay the upheaval at NEH or any federal agency. It is uncertain, but we have not received a cancellation letter.
- Our HUD grant remains viable. These are the earmark funds secured by Congressman McGovern in 2023, and are thus protected from the administration's cuts.

We've got lots of project updates on our website, including details about [current project plans](#), [funding to date](#), and [frequently asked questions](#). Please reach out to me with questions and ideas. As always, I'm happy to be a resource.

Thank you for keeping the faith,

Ginny Hamilton
Jones Library Capital Campaign Manager
manager@joneslibrarycapitalcampaign.org

This joint meeting of Town Council and Library Trustees will take place this coming **[Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM](#)** in the Town Room on the 2nd floor of Town Hall and on Zoom.

- Attend in person if at all possible.
- Attend on Zoom if this suits your needs. ([The Zoom link will be posted here](#))
- [Write to Town Council](#) prior to Monday, especially if you are unable to attend.

For written comments, using the Town Council [Public Comment Form](#) works best because it posts comments automatically as public record. (Comments sent via email aren't posted with the meeting materials.) Please consider forwarding your comments to the Jones Library Trustees as well: trustees@joneslibrary.org

We've already done so much work to renovate and expand our library, and now is the time to remind our Councilors of how essential this project is for our town!

Thank you,

Katherine Appy, Chair
And the Amherst Forward Leadership Team