

Jones Library

43 Amity Street, Amherst, MA

[Building Project Website](#)



Welcome to the newsletter for the Jones Library Building Project, where you can find updates on the renovation/expansion project, information on upcoming meetings, community events, links to polls, and much more.

Project Update

On May 27 the Designer presented the first of a series of [updated schematic designs](#) to the Design Committee. The latest draft was revised to incorporate comments received from Library staff, the public, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). The Jones Library Building Committee (JLBC) will continue to work with the Designer from May through July 1st to incorporate feedback and finalize the schematic designs.

JLBC Site Visits

The JLBC will tour several libraries (Holyoke Public Library, [June 8](#) and Medford Public Library and Woburn Public Library, [June 10](#)) to gather information and insight from their library staff about:

- Their experience through design and construction
- Sustainability goals and achievements
- Library operations
- Fundraising efforts
- Managing service disruption
- Lessons learned

These libraries were chosen because their projects were similar in size to that of the Jones Library, and they either have historic buildings and/or created a net zero building. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



Upcoming Outreach Events

June 8, 7 p.m. – 8:30- p.m.

Public Outreach & Engagement [Virtual Community Forum](#)

June 11, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Village Park Community Event

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Amherst Survival Center

Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Amherst Farmer's Market

Share a Comment in any of these formats

info@joneslibrary.org

[Library Images - add your comments](#)

[Submit a Comment Form](#)

[Ask a Question on AmherstTalks](#)

Other Important News

Community Feedback Update

Last week we were grateful to be included in a community event held at Olympia Oaks. Between burgers, kid's art, and water balloons we had the opportunity to meet many community members who shared their thoughts and insights about the library.

Public comments continue to come in through various methods and events. The process of reviewing public feedback has provided opportunities to affirm certain decisions, deepen thoughts about other parts of the project, and has offered up some new possibilities. Thank you for your continued feedback! As of May 25th, the Library has collected an additional 378 comments from the community, for a total of 1,198 [public comments](#)!

What happens to the Community Feedback?

To date, we have received close to 300 unique comments. When we receive the same comment, or someone's comment is 'liked' or 'boosted' it is reflected in the frequency count next to the original comment. As public comments are collected, the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) identifies the priority of comments to be reviewed based on what phase of the project they impact. The first round of comments identified for review by the JLBC represented about one third of the total comments received to date. JLBC met on May 24th and voted those comments into four categories:

- Agree – in the current design
- Agree – send to the Designer for consideration
- Maybe – send to the Designer for more discussion
- Not feasible

Of the [feedback](#) reviewed, 88 percent was either already contemplated in the current design or will be sent to the Designer for consideration to see if they can be incorporated.

Top Trending Public Comments This Week

- Natural light and windows
- Teen Space – computers, string lights, and plants
- Children's Room – playground/outdoor story time connected to children's room
- Black history space/center



Upcoming JLBC Meetings

Community Forum, June 1, 6 p.m. – 7:30- p.m.

Virtual meeting to review the latest schematic designs and collect questions and feedback to forward to JLBC. [Meeting Link](#)

Jones Library Building Comm.

June 7 at 4:30 p.m. Discussion of the cost and impact on design to have gender-neutral bathrooms and eliminating the elevator in the 1928 portion of the building.

Design Subcommittee

June 3 at 8:30 a.m. Discussion of exterior materials for the addition.

Outreach Subcommittee

Meetings are typically every other Tuesday, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Next meeting **June 14 at 4 p.m.**