

VOTE YES on Article 14 - Start the long-overdue process of making North Amherst Library accessible to all!

1) Why wait? Roughly 10,000 people live near the North Amherst Library. No one knows when they will find stairs a challenge. Accessibility is key for patrons with strollers, walkers or wheelchairs due to a temporary medical condition, or a long-term mobility issue.



This proposal, endorsed by the Daily Hampshire Gazette, includes an accessible entry behind the library, an elevator to all three floors and an accessible public restroom. Avoiding the need for patrons to cross a busy street to use a public restroom, would make the library safer and more appealing to children and parents.

2) Why did the Friends of North Amherst Library propose Article 14?

It's time to act now. It's been more than 25 years since the Americans With Disabilities Act became law. Patrons must cross busy Montague Road to use a restroom in one of the businesses. Yet the Select Board and Library Trustees recommend defeating Article 14 and referring the plan to "town process."

This is the same town process that failed to make accessibility at North Amherst Library a priority on any of its 5-year plans. Why wait longer to start the process to make all 3 floors of the library accessible and provide a public restroom?

3) Why not wait to make changes to the North Amherst Library until after rerouting the Sunderland Road intersection?

The proposed renovations wouldn't affect rerouting the intersection. The impact on any future addition to the library would be minimal.

The renovations are especially timely now since the Design Review Board has recommended installing 18 free parking spaces behind the Library.

4) What about funding for Article 14? The design for North Amherst Library renovations would be funded with \$50,000 from the Town Free Cash fund. No State funds would be involved. Improvements could be funded in part with the balance (at least \$17,000) of William Holland's gift to the North Amherst Library. Community Preservation Act funds can be used to make the historic library accessible.

5) What about Library Trustees' concern that an elevator would conflict with Historic Preservation requirements for North Amherst Library? New elevator technology (see Otis Elevator website: [Learn More](#)) no longer requires a mechanical room on the roof, so an elevator would not impact the library's historic roofline.

North Amherst Village Center Intersection



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