

## **Supplemental Information for Article 28. Library Grant Match**

The Library Trustees request your support of Article 28 of the Town Warrant for funding to perform a Feasibility Study. The Mass Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) grant process was created in 1987 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and has helped build 62 new library buildings and 169 additional, renovations and conversion projects. The grant process will provide access to millions in construction grant funds.

**The next step in the grant process requires the Town to show its support by committing up to \$150,000 for the opportunity to receive up to \$100,000 in matching funding to perform a Feasibility Study.** The purpose of a Feasibility Study is to determine if the current facility can be optimized to meet the needs of the community, as defined in the Building Program published in 2024 with funds provided in the Oct. 2022 Town Meeting allocation.

The Feasibility Study application requires:

- Documents establishing the needs and financial condition of the municipality, along with a certified vote to apply for, accept, and expend MPLCP grant funds if approved, and vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of \$150,000.00, if said MPLCP grant is approved.
- At least two potential locations – (1) the site of the current Holliston Library, a Carnegie building from 1904, and (2) 63 Arch Street, current DPW Facility site which is moving to a new location.
- A building program in accordance with MPLCP standards using data drawn from our Building Use Survey, Public Forums and Focus Groups targeting library staff, library trustees, and library patrons of all ages.

### **WHY DO WE NEED TO DO A FEASIBILITY STUDY?**

Library services are changing, with demand for access to community spaces for study, meetings, and programs going unmet alongside demand for more technology options and expanded collections to keep up with community needs. This demand will only continue to grow over the next 30 years. This grant is an opportunity to mitigate the cost of meeting these demands, with this Feasibility Study being a necessary first step to apply for these funds.

### **WHY DOES IT COST \$150,000?**

\$150,000 is the amount required by the MPLCP to be set aside for a Feasibility Study and which will receive matching funding up to \$100,000. This is the best way to evaluate how we can keep our Library functional and relevant for the next 30 years. Any unused funds are returned to the Town.

### **WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS NOW?**

The last MPLCP grant cycle was opened in 2015. The grant application for the planning and design grants are due at the end of May 2024, thus requiring action from the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting. There is no schedule for future grant cycles. If we do not act now, we do not know when we will have this opportunity again.

### **WOULD THE LIBRARY NEED TO MOVE?**

A construction grant can cover not only new construction but also renovation or renovation/addition. The Feasibility Study will inform the options for renovating the existing building or a new build. Our first priority remains updating our existing building, and if the Feasibility Study suggests that the Library needs a new building to meet community needs, that will be a topic for a future Town Meeting to decide.

### **SUMMARY**

Many of the Library's utilities are nearing the end of their useful life and will need a number of costly replacements in the next 10 years. This process is a rare opportunity to get significant building improvements accomplished while having the State defray the direct financial burden on Holliston residents. Trustees are committed to the advancement of our Library as a vital community resource and understand that missing out on this current grant cycle could be a great detriment to the Library and the town. To best meet the needs of our patrons and community, we cannot chance opting out of this cycle. Thank you for your support.