

## ***Library Building Project Updates***

In January, Montague was awarded funding by the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP). This competitive state grant will pay for roughly 50% of total project costs to build an addition onto the Carnegie Library OR construct a new main library at 38 Avenue A.

The Library Building Steering Committee, consisting of town staff, library trustees, and Montague residents, is facilitating the design phase of the building project. Before the end of the year, the Committee will hire a project management firm and an architectural firm, survey the community about your building preferences and needs, determine whether to build new or to build an addition, hold several public input sessions, and submit a final design for approval by the state.

### ***Additional facts:***

- The Mass Historical Commission ruled that moving the Carnegie Library is no longer an option, due to the building's preservation restriction.
- The preservation restriction on the Carnegie Library also means that the building's exterior can't be modified, and the building can't be demolished.
- MPLCP grant funds are not at risk from federal cuts.

### ***Full Project Timeline:***

**January 2025 - December 2025:** Planning and design phase. A final design will be sent to the state at the end of the year

**January 2026:** The state reviews our design, ensuring it adheres to grant guidelines

**February 2026:** The state estimates our construction costs and calculates our construction phase grant awards

**March 2026:** State Library Commissioners vote to approve construction phase grant awards

**March - June 2026:** Town administration estimates the town's appropriation for the project. In May, town meeting members will vote on a debt exclusion ballot initiative article. If that article passes, then the project would be placed on the ballot to be voted on by Montague voters.

### ***If the project passes:***

**June 2026 - June 2027:** Project architect completes design work from schematic design through construction documents

**July 2027:** The town requests bids from general contractors

**August 2027:** Construction begins! Projects typically take 16 to 24 months to complete.

*Want more information? Check out [montague-ma.gov/government](http://montague-ma.gov/government) and scroll down to "Library Building Steering Committee" for project-related documents. You can also feel free to email Library Director, Caitlin Kelley, at [librarydirector@montague-ma.gov](mailto:librarydirector@montague-ma.gov)*