

Timeline of Library Renovation Project

September 2013 - Swansea Free Public Library (SFPL) completes its first five-year strategic plan. Allows the library to apply for grants supported by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' (MBLC) Library Construction Grant.

- Survey of Library Services, Resources and Facilities is conducted. 158 responses.
- Survey question: *Would you support a library expansion project?*
 - 82% would support a library expansion project
 - 14% might support a library expansion project
 - 4% would not support an expansion project.
- Consequently, one of the 2013 Plan's primary goals was to: *Develop a plan for renovating and/or expanding into a library building that will adequately address community needs and future library services.*

November 2014 – Special Town Meeting – Article 14 –\$75,000 for Library Building Program, including feasibility study, engineering and cost analysis; approved unanimously.

November 2014 – Jim Kern resigns as Town Administrator.

January 2015 – A group of interested individuals begin to meet to discuss a library expansion. This group will become the Library Building Committee.

June 2015 – John McAuliffe appointed Town Administrator.

June 2015 – Library Director Cindy St. Amour, Trustee Chairperson Susan McMullen, and the Library Board of Trustees complete the Swansea Public Library Building Program, which examines library community needs for Swansea residents. The Program is confirmed by LBC and Trustees, and forms the basis for the library construction grant proposal.

June 2015 – Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Owner's Project Manager (OPM) is posted and advertised.

September 1, 2015 – Select Board formally appoints the Library Building Committee (LBC).

October 2015 – LBC selects and Town hires P-Three, Inc. (P3) as OPM for schematic design phase.

October 2015 – RFQ for Designer Services is posted/advertised for architectural services though the project's schematic design phase.

January 2016 – LBC Selects and Town hires design firm Compass Group through schematic design phase.

October 2016 – Letter of Intent is submitted to MBLC indicating that Swansea will submit a proposal for the 2016-2017 Construction Grant Round.

January 2017 – Swansea Library submits Construction Grant proposal to MBLC. This proposal includes the use of the Town Hall as part of the expanded and renovated library facility, as designed by Compass Group architects.

May 2017 – Annual Town Meeting, Article 20, vote to *authorize the LBC and/or the Town and/or the Trustees to apply, accept, and expend state grant funds to defray cost of design, construction, and equipping of library project*; and also vote to approve Article 21 *to accept the preliminary design of the Library expansion project, contingent on receipt of a state grant*; approved unanimously.

Annual Town Meeting, Article 21, vote to *accept preliminary design ... contingent on the receipt of a state grant*; approved unanimously.

July 2017 – Library Director St. Amour receives MBLC letter notifying that Swansea is approved for a provisional Library Construction Grant award of \$6,875,844. Application is successful, but Swansea is waitlisted at #24, last.

The provisional grant requires at least two major conditional changes be met to the existing design: 1. Eliminate the proposed west wing of the design and relocate the Children's Services area; and 2. Integrate the Town Hall/meeting room elements into the rest of the floor plan, with visual and functional connections.

February 2018 – Cindy St. Amour resigns to take a new director position at another library.

February 2018 – Selectmen discuss formally opening conversations with Christ Church, Swansea, to purchase the lot directly adjacent to and behind the Municipal Parking Lot for potential Library expansion and/or increased municipal parking.

May 2018 – LBC votes to move forward with expansion project while on the waiting list.

May 2018 – Special Town Meeting, Article 5, vote to approve the transfer of \$25,000 for continued design services from Swansea's unrestricted available funds; approved unanimously.

July 2018 – Eileen Dyer is appointed as Library Director of Swansea Free Public Library.

July 2018 – Swansea's Building Consultant, Rosemary Waters, retires from the MBLC.

December 2018 – Eileen Dyer, John McAuliffe, and Susan McMullen meet with MBLC Building Consultants, Lauren Stara and Andrea Bunker, to discuss the future of the project and Swansea's place on the waitlist.

March 2019 – Library Board of Trustees appoints a Library Strategic Planning Committee to begin the library's second strategic plan.

May 2019 – Annual Town Meeting, Article 30: The people vote to appropriate \$99,000 to purchase parcel of land & easement behind the municipal parking lot *"for the purpose of Town Hall and Library parking, Village Park parking, and for future Library expansion..."*; and Article 31: the people vote to *"appropriate \$50,000 to make improvements and to extend the parking layout for the Town Hall, Library, and Village Park parking area..."*.

June 2019 – Survey results from question #11 in Strategic Plan Survey for Swansea Residents: *In 2017, the Swansea Library received a \$6,875,844 [provisional] grant to renovate and expand the library from the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program. This grant will cover*

approximately 48% of the project's construction costs. If the library were to ask for funding from the Town to pay for the additional 52% of the renovation cost that is not covered by the grant, how likely would you be to support it? (560 responses):

- Definitely or probably would: 83.8%
- Definitely or probably would not: 16.7%

November 2019 – RFQ for Owner's Project Manager is posted and advertised.

January 2020 –LBC selects new OPM, Pomroy Associates.

January 2020 – Town Administrator John McAuliffe begins a medical leave of absence.

February 2020 – October 2020 – James Purcell, then William Anderson, serve as Acting Town Administrators

March 2020 – Covid-19 pandemic begins and Town offices partially shut down before OPM contract with Pomroy is executed.

July 2020 – Swansea Mall Developer plans intervene and the Swansea LBC is directed by Select Board to meet with developer to assess if this would be an appropriate space for the future Swansea Free Public Library. Several meetings are held.

September 2020 – LBC meets and unanimously votes to reject the Swansea Mall Developers' plans to include the Library in the proposed municipal office plans. Reasons include: insufficient library facility for the community and loss of \$6.87M state grant.

September 2020 – LBC consensus to move forward with the project due to escalating construction costs.

October 2020 – Town appoints Mallory Aronstein as Town Administrator.

December 2020 – LBC votes to have the Town post RFQ for designer/architect to restart the design process.

January 2021 – Town completes purchase with Christ Church for land behind the municipal lot.

August 2021 – Town executes OPM contract with Pomroy Associates with mutual agreement to use same terms from January 2020 RFQ and response.

November 2021 – At Special Town Meeting, Article 7, vote to appropriate \$75,000 to be expended on architectural services for the library expansion project; approved unanimously

November 2021 – Town posts/advertises RFQ for architectural/ designer services

January 2022 – Architect/designer, Johnson Roberts Associates (JRA) selected unanimously by LBC after proposal reviews and interviews

February 2022 – Town executes contract for Project Phase 2 (though schematic design) with JRA

February 2022 – October 2022 – LBC, Pomroy, and JRA meet biweekly

September 27, 2022 – Board of Selectmen unanimously approved placing Library Renovation and Expansion Project on warrant for Special Town Meeting, October 24, 2022.

October 11, 2022 – Swansea Community Informational Forum, 2:00 pm at Swansea Council on Aging.

October 17, 2022 – Swansea Community Informational Forum, 6:30 pm at E.S. Brown Elementary School Gym.