

## Community Preservation Act Committee Proposal Request for FY 2019

**Project Title:** Improvements to the North Amherst Library

**CPA Funding Category:** Historic Preservation

**Amount of CPA Funds Requested:** \$45,000

**Submitting Entity:** The Friends of the North Amherst Library

**Contact Person:** Patricia Holland

Phone: 413-549-1503

Email: [pgholl@gmail.com](mailto:pgholl@gmail.com)

**Overview of Proposal:** The Friends of the North Amherst Library seek funds to update the library's bathroom, currently not open to the public, to make a unisex, handicapped accessible bathroom available for all users of the library. This building has been owned by the Town of Amherst since it was built in 1893.

The North Amherst Library is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing structure in the North Amherst Center Historic District. On November 6, 2017, Amherst's Special Town Meeting voted \$50,000 to fund the design by an architect of a plan to "include, but not be limited to, making the following significant improvements to the North Amherst Library, within the following constraints:

- a. Make all three floors of the building fully accessible by elevator with as little impact on the building's historic components as possible, while minimizing damage to the two large maples at the rear of the building, and maintaining the building's character, and its architectural and aesthetic unity;
- b. Provide (a) fully accessible bathroom(s) and a water fountain for use by the public and Library staff;
- c. Develop and install a more climate, energy, and space conscious method of heating and cooling the building;
- d. At least double the North Amherst Library space available to the public in the existing building;
- e. Add a sidewalk at the south edge of the paved area at the rear of the Library building that would connect to a new accessible ground floor entry at the rear of the North Amherst Library building;
- f. Finish and furnish the unfinished attic space for use for public meetings, for ESL conversation circles, for public readings including readings for children, etc.;
- g. Do not assume any change in the present layout of Sunderland Road."

Town Manager Paul Bockelman has estimated that a designer architect for this project will be under contract by mid-February 2018.

1. **Funding Needed:** \$45,000

- a. **Cost estimates, budget:** A public, wheelchair-accessible bathroom is estimated to cost \$300/sq. ft. For a space of 10 ft. x 15 ft. the total amounts to \$45,000.
- b. **Other sources of funding:** For the entire renovation, the Friends of the North Amherst Library will seek funds from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Jones Library Trustees' Holland fund, which is restricted for the use of the North Amherst Library, the 2018 Annual Town Meeting, from North Amherst gifts and donations by North Amherst residents and businesses, and North Amherst Library patrons,
- c. **Timeline:** We expect to have work begun in the summer of 2018 and completed by the end of 2018.

2. **Urgency of the Project:** The existing bathroom is in the basement and down a very narrow, steep stairway that is closed to the public. Children and adult library patrons needing a bathroom must cross busy Montague Road (State Route 63) to find a facility in the shops on the other side. The bathroom is also inaccessible for the handicapped, as is the entire building.

3. **Timeline to completion:** July-December 2018.

4. **Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources:** Not pertinent.

5. **Populations to be served by the project:** All users and staff of the North Amherst Library will benefit from having an accessible bathroom, the handicapped included. Some 10,000 Amherst residents live within walking distance. Users of the library also include many from neighboring towns and other parts of Amherst, including college students.

6. **Maintenance of facility over time:** Maintenance of the bathroom will be the responsibility of the Town of Amherst in cooperation with the Jones Library.

7. **Relevant Town Committees and Commissions:** The Friends of the North Amherst Library will prepare a request for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting for funding of improvements to the library. Improvements needed are specified above. We will attend meetings of the Amherst Historical Commission, Finance Committee, Joint Capital Planning Committee, Planning Board, the Board of the Jones Library Trustees and their Committees, and any other relevant boards or committees.

8. **Other information regarding the project:** Active requests for fundraising pledges from North Amherst residents, businesses and North Amherst Library patrons will begin in January 2018.