Library Community Newsletter

April 29, 2016 Newsletter #1

The Dighton Public Library was gifted by Andrew Carnegie and constructed in 1910. Since then, there have only been minor changes to the building. Currently, it is not able to meet the demands of today's patrons and staff members. Many functions of a modern library are not possible here for many reasons but most notably because of the lack of space. The Library Trustees have been exploring many options for the library since the Building Program Study was completed in 2015. The trustees submitted an application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for a Planning and Design Grant which was approved at the June 5, 2014 Board Meeting.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners offers two levels of Grants: Planning and Design Grants and Construction and Renovation/ Expansion Grants. The Town of Dighton was awarded a Planning and Design Grant of $50,000 in June 2014 and since then has been working hard behind the scenes procuring an Owner's Project Manager, P3 - Project Planning Professionals in Norwell, MA, and is currently seeking qualifications for Designers to guide the Trustees through a Feasibility Study for renovating the current Public Library building.

Monthly Look Ahead

The Design team will begin studying the existing conditions of the building and help the trustees understand the possibilities for renovating and adding to the Library . P^3 is coordinating a full site survey so the team can understand all of the existing conditions on site. This will play an intricate role in developing the building as it relates to the property.

Q&A

Will the Dighton community have an opportunity to provide input?

Absolutely. The Library Trustees hold regular public meetings to discuss the progress, and intent of the project. Meetings are posted and any interested member of the community is welcome. In addition, The project Team will be sharing these periodic Community Newsletters to keep you informed, and will hold publicized community outreach meetings.

With the procurement of the OPM and the Designer, the project will enter into the Planning and Design phase of the project. Planning and Design must be finished by Summer 2016 in order to keep with the MBLC Grant Schedule. This Planning and Design phase begins the process of creating a refreshed library that will benefit the Dighton community for at least 20 years into the future. If the MBLC accepts the Dighton project into their Construction Grant program, they will reimburse the Town approximately 50% of the project cost!