

A Rare Opportunity for Hanson: Grant Award Supports Library Expansion

By Hanson Library Building Committee

The Hanson Public Library is on the brink of a transformative moment — one that could benefit our entire community for generations. Thanks to a \$100,000 Planning & Design grant from the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP), Hanson has the chance to expand its undersized and overburdened library into a true 21st-century community hub.

The Library Building Committee, in coordination with the Library Trustees, Town officials, Owner's Project Manager P3, and Oudens Ello Architecture, is developing plans to renovate and expand the current facility — a fiscally responsible approach that makes the most of our existing resources.

Built in 1990 at only 8,000 square feet, the current Library was deemed too small to meet community needs for library services beyond 2010. The proposed expansion would nearly triple its size to 22,000 square feet, providing dedicated spaces for children, teens, and adults; larger meeting and collaborative study rooms; community gathering spaces; and outdoor green areas.

To support this plan, the Select Board voted in April of this year to make 3.2 acres of the former Maquan School property adjacent to the current library available for consideration in the project.

In addition to the MPLCP funds of \$100,000, the Library has secured \$150,000 in Library trust funds and private matching funds. Early next year, the Library anticipates being awarded a second MPLCP grant **that would cover approximately 50% of construction costs of the renovation and expansion project**, greatly reducing the financial impact on the town.

MPLCP grants are highly competitive and awarded infrequently. **Hanson is ranked #1 in the state for medium-sized libraries for this grant round** — a testament to our community's commitment and future planning.

This project is more than just the construction of a building — it's a long-term investment in education, access, opportunity, and connection. Modern libraries are not just about books; they are community centers offering internet access, job resources, educational programs, cultural events, and support for residents of all ages.

With this grant, Hanson holds a “golden ticket”, a rare chance to transform its library into the community anchor that residents deserve.

For more information about the Hanson Library Building Project – please visit hansonlibrary.org/building-project

