

**April 8, 2022**

**An Update to the Sherborn Community on the Library Construction Project**

**from the Sherborn Board of Library Trustees and Select Board**

Following our [Open Letter](#) in October 2021, the Sherborn Board of Library Trustees wants to update the community of the actions being taken and when we anticipate the Library to be reopening. The October Open Letter provides important background information and context to this update.

**What's happening**

*Ductwork Replacement*

Since our October update, the Town solicited bids (1) to remove the damaged HVAC ductwork and clean and remove asbestos fibers detected within the original library building, and (2) to fabricate and install the new ductwork. The newly constructed wing of the Library was fully tested for asbestos and there was no asbestos fibers detected. The current plan filed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection projects that the interior of the original library building will be fully cleaned of any asbestos fibers by the end of April. The fabrication and installation of the new ductwork is expected to be completed by September.

*Construction Progress*

From October through January, construction continued in the new wing of the Library and is almost complete. We have posted new photographs of the building exterior and interior at [sherbornlibrary.org](http://sherbornlibrary.org) to highlight the additional progress made to date. Once the ductwork replacement work is complete, the final construction work will recommence. Upon the successful completion of the work, the Library would expect to be opened in the fall.

*Costs and Funding*

The Town, the Library's Endowment, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) grant continue to provide the funding for the project. The ductwork replacement will incur additional costs estimated to be \$1,250,000, based on bids received. This additional cost will be funded out of the capital budget approved by the Town in 2015, as well as additional funds contributed from the Library's Endowment. We hope to recover the additional funds from any cost overruns, including replacing the ductwork, but that will depend on the outcome of the litigation.

*Litigation*

Since October 2020, the Library Construction Project is under litigation. The complaints filed are public documents that can be found [here](#).

In August 2021, the Town filed new claims against the building contractor, the bond surety company and their project manager. [These claims](#) were filed under chapter 93A of Massachusetts law, which prohibits unfair and deceptive business practices.

Because of the ongoing litigation, we are required to keep certain information on the construction project confidential. The Sherborn Select Board continues to actively pursue the Town's rights in this case, including seeking compensation to the Town for costs related to delays and other damages.

### **What's Next**

The Library will continue to operate in the Sherborn Community Center until the construction project and ductwork replacement is complete. Programming will continue as it has been in early 2022 and with recent changes to COVID restrictions, the facility is now open 41 hours per week, now with many both in person and on-line programs and events as well as expanded digital resources. Please visit [sherbornlibrary.org](http://sherbornlibrary.org) for additional information.

We will continue to share periodic updates as the Library Construction Project progresses toward completion. When we have a better sense of the reopening date, we will be holding a Public Forum on the project to provide information on the history of the project, the ductwork replacement, construction completion, overall project costs / funding and the library reopening plans.

### **How to Learn More**

Information on the Library Construction project is posted on the Sherborn Library website [Sherborn Library Renovation News](#).

Should you have specific questions, please e-mail [sherbornlibrary@comcast.net](mailto:sherbornlibrary@comcast.net) and we will respond to all inquiries.

Both the Library Trustees and the Library Building Committee meet monthly in open public meetings. The dates, times and location of these meetings are posted on the Town of Sherborn website: <https://www.sherbornma.org/calendar> Citizens are invited to attend these meetings to learn more about the construction work and ask questions.

### **In Closing**

As stated in our October Open Letter, we know these delays are disappointing news for the community. As we complete the new ductwork installation and finish the construction of the new wing, we will have a better sense of when the Library can safely reopen later this fall. Although we don't know all the answers and some information is limited due to the litigation, we will continue to do our best to share with our community what we currently know and actions we are taking.

Thank you for your continued patience. The Library Trustees, Library Building Committee and Select Board remain committed to deliver a beautifully renovated and expanded Library to serve Sherborn residents and the community for many decades to come.

Sincerely

Brian Connolly, Chair of the Library Trustees

Eric Johnson, Chair of the Sherborn Select Board