

State Grant for the Library: Background & History

AT THEIR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING in April 2005, the citizens of Edgartown voted in favor of two articles, worded as follows:

ARTICLE 54. Moved that the Town vote to approve the renovation and expansion design of the Edgartown Free Public Library contingent on the receipt of a state grant.

ARTICLE 55. Moved to authorize the Library Trustees to apply for any state and federal funds which might be available to defray all or part of the cost of the design, construction and equipping of the library project and to authorize the Library Trustees to accept and expend any such funds when received without further appropriation.

The Library Trustees subsequently worked with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) to develop an acceptable design. The state placed Edgartown on a waiting list for funding in 2006, and in 2008 set aside a grant of nearly \$4.6 million for the expansion project.

State funding for libraries is handed out to towns very differently from state funding for public school projects. In the case of the Edgartown Library project, quoting here from the MBLC's governing regulations, an initial payment of 30% of the grant total is made to the town immediately upon execution of a grant agreement between the town and the state board. This means Edgartown would receive approximately \$1.38 million as soon as it formally notifies the state that it is proceeding with this project.

A second payment of \$1.38 million would come to Edgartown from the state when the following three conditions are met:

- MBLC staff has approved final project plans and specifications,
- A contract has been signed with a general contractor, and
- A building permit has been issued.

An additional \$1.38 million would be disbursed to Edgartown when construction is 75% complete; the final payment of the last \$460,000 is made when the town sends the state a copy of the certificate of occupancy, demonstrating that the project is done.

On the next page of this document: a copy of the 2008 letter from the state announcing its grant of \$4.59 million to Edgartown for construction of the library. This letter sets a deadline of Dec. 31, 2009, for Edgartown to begin the project or lose the state grant. The MBLC has subsequently extended that deadline until June 15, 2010.



Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

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August 14, 2008

Felicia Cheney
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Director
Robert C. Maier

Dear Felicia:

At the August 14, 2008 meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Board voted a provisional grant award to the Edgartown Free Public Library, Edgartown, in the amount of \$4,593,557 for its public library construction project. You will note that this award includes a 15% inflation factor increase over the amount in the Waiting List dated November 2, 2006.

This award is subject to the negotiation of a contract with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, completion of local funding, and compliance of your library and your community with all of the assurances as indicated in the grant application and outlined in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (605 CMR 6.00) relating to the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (a copy is enclosed). Please note especially that the deadline to secure local funding and to sign a contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is **December 31, 2009**.

A workshop meeting will be scheduled to discuss the grant implementation process and help answer additional questions. More information about this meeting will be mailed to you in the coming weeks. Grant reviewer comments about your individual project will be relayed to you in a separate meeting with our staff as design work continues on your project.

Congratulations on reaching this important milestone in the progress of your project with the receipt of a provisional award.

Sincerely,


Robert C. Maier
Director