

Submitted on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 - 7:08am

Submitted by anonymous user: 71.174.250.162

Submitted values are:

First Name: Justin

Last Name: Hollander

Email Address: jholl98765@yahoo.com

Street Address: 4 Hillside Ave

City: Grafton

State: Massachusetts

Public Comment Disclaimer: I have read and understand the Public Comment Disclaimer.

Comments: I attended a forum several months ago on this project and an idea was put forward: simultaneously with the design for the large addition, the architects should also sketch out (and develop an estimate for) a more modest addition (5-10k sq ft) that would not be eligible for matching funds from the State. That way, when presented to the voters, they would understand that for the same, maybe even less cost to Grafton taxpayers, we can get a substantial addition. Please have the architect do such a sketch and cost estimate, it will go far in building support for the expansion project. Thank you for your comment.

We brought the suggestion to our committee and architect for discussion at our meeting on November 7, 2016. The additional you work you suggested is beyond the scope of the work that the architect was hired to do: namely, to develop a design with input from building committee, staff and community that met the requirements for the MPLCP grant: adequate seating, shelf space and parking for our population 20 years into the future.

At our Nov meeting, I did stress that a graphical illustration of a smaller floor plan at an estimation of half the value was desirable, in fact more desirable than the numbers comparison.

In your email you've written, "That way, when presented to the voters, they would understand that for the same, maybe even less cost to Grafton taxpayers, we can get a substantial addition. "

We would get an INSUBSTANTIAL addition should we opt out of the grant by producing a building with only a 5,000-10,000 square feet addition. That would be inadequate for today's population, let alone for the future.

In 2011, reducing the building by half would have dramatically increased the per square foot cost, and cost less than a million dollars less:

Option: Full expansion, with state funds, cost to town ~ \$6.6M (other 1/2 paid for by grant) = Cost per square foot = \$300

Option: Half expansion with only town funds, cost to town ~\$5.8M. = Cost per square foot = \$830

We will work on providing a current estimate, based on cost per square foot only, though it would obviously reduce many of the services/capabilities because of the size.

I invite you to attend a Library Planning and Building Committee meeting or community forum to share your vision of which pieces of the program to cut in that case: the meeting room, the book stacks, the children's space, teen space, adult space, or staff space.

Many thanks for your input!