



# Massachusetts Libraries

## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

May 28, 2020

Ms. Cheryl Weinstein, President  
Sharon Public Library Board of Trustees  
Sharon Public Library  
11 North Main Street  
Sharon, MA 02067

Dear Cheryl:

Thank you for your inquiry on behalf of the Zoning Board. Below, please find the MBLC's responses to each question posed.

1. The MBLC has been kept abreast of the developments regarding a variance for the chosen site for the new Sharon Public Library. We believe the library answered the variance and zoning questions in good faith during the application process. Zoning issues are local issues, and, given the recent information regarding the errors within the application to the Zoning Board, the outcome of the grant application would not have changed.
2. There have been two formal decisions by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners regarding a reduction in size of the proposed building: one approval for Shrewsbury and one rejection for Boxford. The town of Shrewsbury acquired additional land after submitting their grant application, allowing them to redesign the building, in which they were able to reduce non-programmatic spaces (mechanicals, stairways, etc.) and increase efficiency by 10%. The program allows for a 5% reduction for efficiency without a Board vote. The town of Boxford sought to reduce the programmatic space of their design, but the Board voted to reject that petition, as it would have resulted in a building that did not adequately serve the community.
3. Per our regulations, the town of Sharon must complete construction documents within two years of signing the grant agreement with the Massachusetts Board of Commissioners, which would be in August of 2021. The town then has until June 30, 2023 to commence construction. Below, please see the applicable regulations related to project schedule.

605 CMR 6.05(2)(c) 22. that preparation of documents according to 605 CMR 6.06(7)(d) will be completed and submitted within two years of signing a grant agreement with the Board;

### Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

98 N. Washington Street, Suite 401, Boston, MA 02114

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P: 617-725-1860

F: 617-725-0140

[mass.gov/libraries](https://mass.gov/libraries)

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605 CMR 6.05(2)(d) 33. that construction will begin in the fiscal year immediately following the date of acceptance by Board staff of the final project construction documents;

Further note that any breach of the contract, regulations, and/or assurances on the part of the town of Sharon will result in the return of all funds disbursed from the State with any accrued interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification on any of these points.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Bunker

Library Building Specialist  
Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners  
98 North Washington Street #401  
Boston, MA 02114

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