



CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Corporation

January 17, 2020

Brona Simon  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

**RE: Project Notification Form Response  
Concord Free Public Library Expansion  
MHC #RC.66817**

Dear Ms. Simon:

The Concord Free Public Library Corporation received a copy of your response, dated December 13, 2019, to the Project Notification Form previously filed by our Architects, Johnson Roberts Associates Inc. We have reviewed your letter and the reasons therein in support of MHC's conclusion that a consultation process is warranted in respect of this Project.

We recognize that MHC is required to review many projects and that the thirty-day period in which to respond to a specific project notification may sometimes not provide sufficient time to fully consider all aspects of a project.

Accordingly, we attach our Architects' response to your letter of December 13, 2019. It sets forth specific and detailed facts why MHC's conclusion in its letter is not appropriate. We agree with their reasoning and observations based on facts and request that MHC re-consider its conclusion to institute a consultation process in respect of this Project.

In this connection MHC should know that both the Concord Historic Districts Commission and the Concord Zoning Board of Appeals approved the Project design. In particular, the Concord Historic Districts Commission is most familiar with the community, the Main Street Historic District, and the Heywood-Benjamin House and takes its charge very seriously. HDC granted its approval of the Project after a comprehensive review process that included extensive input from the public, beginning with an informal presentation in January 2018 while the proposed design was being developed followed by five public hearings and two site visits.

It is not surprising to us, as we are sure to MHC, that major projects such as ours have those who hold differing views of the Project. We note your letter lists as copy recipients, among others, Sally Sanford, Anita Berrizbeitia and John Althouse.

As you would expect in a community such as Concord, its Boards pride themselves on conducting fair and open hearings. The above-mentioned copy recipients had every opportunity to and did publically express their reasons for not supporting the Project. Their reasons were collectively set forth in detailed written submittals and extensive public presentations and were addressed by our Boards. It is unsettling to us, and we are sure to the many Concord community

supporters of the Project, that we are faced with the need to again address issues already put to rest by our Boards.

Nonetheless, we support our Architects' request for an opportunity for the Library Corporation, its preservation consultant, and them to meet with MHC staff to clarify areas of concern and to review with MHC staff the basis, including supporting documentation, upon which the MHC's conclusion was based. In this connection, we would encourage a visit by MHC staff of the Project site.

We and our Architects look forward to your prompt response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sherry F. Litwack".

Sherry F. Litwack  
President, Concord Free Public Library Corporation

cc: Elizabeth Sherva, Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Michael Bellefeuille, Johnson Roberts Associates, Inc.  
Jeffrey Adams, Concord Free Public Library  
Marcy Eckel, Concord Free Public Library  
Stephen Crane, Town Manager, Town of Concord  
Peter Nobile, Concord Historic Districts Commission  
Lawrence Sorli