

CANTON LIBRARY HISTORICAL ENTRANCE

Applicant: Canton Public Library

Photo Credits:
Mark Lague,
Canton Public
Library Director



Project Description:

Designed by renowned Boston architects Winslow and Bigelow, and donated to the Town by resident philanthropist Augustus Hemenway, the Canton Public Library has been welcoming Canton readers since 1902. For the last 50-plus years, the original Washington Street entrance to this century-old building has been obscured by a glass enclosure that provided energy savings in its day, but since the library renovation in 2003, the entrance no longer serves its essential function. The Canton Board of Library Trustees now seeks to restore this grand entrance and to preserve the historical elements that adorn the attractive facade of this community building. The proposed historic restoration project will reveal the grand oak doors and bronze ornamental hardware by removing the bulky glass entry addition. The doors, hinges and decorations will be cleaned and refinished, and the bronze transom above the doors will be similarly treated. In addition to removing the glass enclosure and restoring the oak doors, the two historical cast iron lamp posts that illuminate the front stairs will be professionally conserved and refinished for preservation. Finally, the stone steps and landing leading to the front doors – worn and damaged from over 100 years of use and exposure – will be resealed and faults will be repaired.

The total cost of the proposed project – which includes some elements that are not eligible for CPA funding such as electrical work and supplemental lighting – is \$51,500. The applicant submitted a CPA funding request in the amount of \$38,000 to cover the historical restoration and after thoughtful discussions of the project budget at a public meeting, the CCPC is recommending funding in the amount of \$35,000.

The library trustees will cover the portions of the project that are not related to the historic restoration (e.g. installing emergency egress hardware, electrical work, patching, etc.). In addition, they agreed to cover the estimated cost of removing the glass entry (approximately \$3,000).