

Town Hall Building and Renovation

Time Line

- ♦ September 3, 1927: Town Hall dedicated.
- ♦ 1986: Committee charged with determining departmental space needs – "Forecast for 15 to 20 years is appropriate if we are to develop and implement economically effective restoration and renovation", said Selectmen Peter Batayte. Committee members: R. Sullivan, J. Connors, L. Ripley, B. Pendleton, A. Bates. Committee does study of space needs.
- ♦ 1987: Outside of building painted by 12 volunteers.
- ♦ 1988: Energy grant performed, received state money for furnace and insulation; also, applied to MA Historical Commission for funding for design services but denied a grant.
- ♦ 1988: Town Meeting appropriates \$8000 for design services, but later rescinds vote because of funding limitations.
- ♦ 1989: "With no money available for design help at this time, \$15,000-\$25,000 was needed, we will concentrate on smaller things such as handicap access, simple energy conservation matters and securing and putting in place, portable partitions", Avery Bates.
- ♦ 1993: Committee membership down to three people: Betty Pendleton Marjorie Bloomberg and Leon Ripley. New members join: Brian Falcetti, James Roberts, James Meadows, Ernest Sattler, Eric Forish, and Elizabeth Smith. Committee does updated study of space needs.
- ♦ 1993-1994: Apply for and receive money from Federal Government to make bathroom handicap accessible. Not able to do because of strings attached to money so reprogram money for use to upgrade local septic systems.
- ♦ 1995: Cy Maceyka builds handicap ramp at no cost to town.
- ♦ 1996: Annual Town Meeting: Motion passes to carve up hall into offices.
- ♦ 1996: Protest by Historical Commission about carving up building: Commission members, Wilhelmina Tryon, Melinda Wackerbarth, Len Elie, Don Munro, Frankie Hansen. Grant application submitted to MA Historical Commission for planning grant – grant denied.
- ♦ 1996: Five volunteers redo bathroom to make handicap accessible.
- ♦ March 1997: Vote at Special Town Meeting to keep stage and add on to building. Annual Town Meeting 1997: Town votes to hire designer for building.

- ♦ October 1997: Renovation Committee Members - Len Elie, Melinda Wackerbarth, Marjorie Bloomberg, Leon Ripley, Brian Falcetti, Ernest Sattler, Bill Vannah, Bob Sullivan.
- ♦ October 1997: Architect hired to look at present and future space needs. Designs building which meets space needs and is acceptable to local and MA Historical Commission.
- ♦ Annual Town Meeting 1998: Town accepts architect's design plans and votes money to fund project.
- ♦ Summer 1998: Town Hall Renovation Committee meets bi-weekly to develop detailed design plans; septic system designed; land surveyed. Town completes applications for and receives funding through FHA for project.
- ♦ Fall 1998: ZBA grants variance to Town for additions.
- ♦ November 1998: Court action filed to have ZBA variance overturned.
- ♦ November 1998–2000: Case adjudicated, center hall renovated, underground fuel tanks removed, new septic system installed.
- ♦ December 2000: Town Hall project bid out. Project includes two wings. Low bid \$491,000.
- ♦ May 2001: Town seeks \$375,000 in additional funding for project at Annual Town Meeting and vote fails. Town Meeting appropriates \$50,000. Committee resigns.
- ♦ October 2001: Board of Selectmen and Building Inspector take over committee responsibilities. Doug Roberts appointed Clerk of the Works. Based on Town Meeting comments, project re-bid with bare essentials and one wing only. Low bid is \$362,000, which was very close to low bid for both wings.
- ♦ February 2002: Town decides to build both wings and appropriates \$250,000.
- ♦ May 2002: Project bid and R.A.C. Builders of Agawam's low bid of \$575,000 is accepted after a Town Meeting in May appropriates \$75,000.
- ♦ July 2002: Renovation started.
- ♦ March 2003: Town votes \$27,000 for additional expenses, \$50,000 for parking lot, \$25,000 for emergency generator and \$10,000 for furniture, window coverings, and phone system.
- ♦ July 2003: Building renovations and addition completed. Final cost of process from inception in 1986 to completion in 2003, almost \$900,000.