



Town of Stoughton
Economic Development Director
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Stoughton Awarded \$2,000,000 Grant for Train Depot Rehab/Conversion to Community Center Project

Under the direction of the Town Manager, Tom Calter, the Economic Development Director Pamela McCarthy applied for a grant from the State's One Stop for Community Growth MassWorks Infrastructure Program. On October 11th the Town was notified by a letter from the Secretary of Economic Development, Yvonne Hao that the entire request in the amount of \$2,000,000 has been awarded for the conversion of the former train station to the new Stoughton Community Center.

Since the Depot was purchased from the MBTA in 2019 a great deal of effort has been put into funding the rehab of this building. Multiple smaller grants and earmarks have been awarded that allowed the Town to start the process and to secure the building. The Community Preservation Act Committee, with the support of Town meeting, also contributed a significant amount of money to purchase and rehab the building.

The Select Board voted in 2023 to designate the Train Depot as a Community Center. Manager Tom Calter appointed Select Board member Joe Mokrisky to lead the project design and construction. Working with a consultant provided by a Mass Downtown Initiative Grant, Pamela McCarthy conducted a highest and best use study of the building that included a community survey. The community supported this use.

The MassWorks grant will make it possible for the Town to complete the rehab work necessary to make the building safe and usable allowing it to be transformed into a multi-use Community Center. This use will provide the opportunity for Stoughton residents and visitors to attend art and historical exhibits, performances and special events.

Longtime residents will once again be able to enjoy this beloved historical building. New and younger residents who only know the building as an abandoned structure will be able to enjoy the space for the first time.

This Depot Conversion Project will go a long way toward accomplishing the Master Plan's number one Economic Development goal of Downtown Revitalization.

The Town is also grateful for the support shown by the Healey – Driscoll Administration that made this grant possible.