



**WILLIAMSTOWN FIRE DISTRICT**  
34 Water Street, Williamstown Ma 01267 | [www.williamstownfiredept.org](http://www.williamstownfiredept.org)

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

## **Clark Art Institute to Contribute \$500,000 to Williamstown Fire Station Project**

Williamstown, Mass., February 27, 2023—The Clark Art Institute announced today that it would contribute \$500,000 toward the building of a new fire station in Williamstown, pending the project's approval by town voters.

"This is wonderful news for the project, the Fire District, our firefighters, and everyone in our community," said Dave Moresi, chair of the Williamstown Fire District's governing Prudential Committee.

"Our deep thanks go to the Clark and its board for this much-welcomed support, which both advances this important project and reduces its costs to residents. This, along with the Clarks' many other involvements in the community bolsters its standing as one of the entities that helps to make Williamstown be Williamstown.

The gift will be paid in installments over five years.

"We are deeply appreciative of the work done by the members of our community who serve as volunteer firefighters, and we are proud to support the important work of the Williamstown Fire Department by joining the effort to ensure that they have facilities that are efficient, appropriate, and safe," said Olivier Meslay, Hardyman Director of the Clark. The donation was approved by the Clark's Board of Trustees during a meeting last week.

The announcement follows a commitment by Williams College of \$5 million toward the station and the unanimous decision by the Town's Select Board to make available \$225,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds.

The Prudential Committee last month lowered its cap on the project's total cost (construction plus so-called soft costs) from \$25 million to \$22.5 million, and committed to using all current and future gifts and grants to lower the cost of bonding for the project.

To achieve the lower spending cap, the station design has been reduced from 27,000 to 22,500 square feet. The district, meanwhile, continues to seek further gifts and grants. A vote on whether to proceed with the project is scheduled to take place at a special, one-agenda-item public meeting on Tuesday, February 28, at 7:00 p.m. at Williamstown Elementary School. That meeting is open to all Williamstown registered voters. Because paying for the project involves borrowing, the proposal will require approval from two-thirds of those who vote that evening.

Free, supervised activities for children aged six and up will be available next door at the Williamstown Youth Center.

Anyone needing a ride to and from the meeting can email:  
[wfdbuildinginfo@williamstownfiredept.org](mailto:wfdbuildinginfo@williamstownfiredept.org).

The current fire station on Water Street was built in 1950. It does not meet current safety and other codes, hampers modern operations, and leaks energy. The proposal is to build a new station just east of the Aubuchon store on Main Street that is safe, operationally up to date, and net zero-carbon.

Much more information on the project, including its new floor plans and its projected effects on the local property tax assessments, is available at [www.williamstownfiredept.org](http://www.williamstownfiredept.org).

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