

Newton Cultural Alliance  
1301 Centre Street  
Newton, MA 02459

September 3, 2014

Community Preservation Committee  
c/o Alice Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager  
Newton Planning and Development Department  
City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

Re: Nathaniel Allen Homestead, 35 Webster Street, West Newton

Dear Alice and Members of the Community Preservation Committee:

This letter is written to update you on a recent and unexpected turn of events in West Newton adjacent to the Nathaniel Allen House. Late in the week of August 19, 2014 we became aware that the property at 406 Cherry Street, contiguous to the Allen House property, was for sale. We had known from Allen House interested neighbors for a few weeks that the elderly woman living in the house on this property was not well and it was likely that the house would go on the market. On further inquiry we learned that there would be two open houses on the weekend of 8/23-24 and that all offers were due by 8/26. Another very generous West Newton donor offered NCA \$250,000 as a down payment to provide the opportunity to secure this roughly 10,500 sq feet of land and thus provide the Allen House with much broader opportunity for development of the site. This seemed to be a once in a lifetime opportunity. Laurel Farnsworth, NCA Board Chair, led the pursuit to acquire this property and our offer was accepted on 8/26/2014. The P&S is expected to be signed later this week. Laurel is working with Village Bank on a loan to cover the additional cost. Our intent for the time being is to rent the property to create a revenue source and over time to study the best use possibilities for the property which might include but not be limited to additional program and office space, community open space and additional parking. We are excited to think that with this additional land our dream of a community arts and cultural educational and community center will be able to better and more thoroughly serve the community and provide greater opportunity for all involved.

In addition, at this time I would like to invite you if you are interested to a public meeting that will be held on the NCA's Site Plan Review on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm at the First Unitarian Church, 1326 Washington Street in West Newton. This is part of the process we began more than two months ago that will ultimately lead to our being able to obtain a building permit to start our planned renovations as included in our proposal to the CPC. If you would like to attend you are most welcome.

Very truly yours,

*Adrienne*

Adrienne Hartzell  
Acting Managing Director