

SCHLESINGER AND BUCHBINDER, LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
1200 WALNUT STREET  
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02461-1267

STEPHEN J. BUCHBINDER  
ALAN J. SCHLESINGER  
LEONARD M. DAVIDSON  
LORI YARVIS  
KRISTINE H.P. HUNG  
FRANKLIN J. SCHWARZER

TELEPHONE (617) 965-3500  
FACSIMILE (617) 965-6824

OF COUNSEL  
HEATHER G. MERRILL

[sjbuchbinder@sab-law.com](mailto:sjbuchbinder@sab-law.com)

October 16, 2009

Ms. Nancy Grissom, CPA  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459-1449

Dear Nancy,

I am writing to you in support of the grant of CPA funds for the scanning of records at the City of Newton Engineering Division of the Public Works Department. As a local land use attorney, I often have occasion to visit the Engineering Division in search of older records. Having these records scanned and placed on-line for easy access would be a tremendous benefit both to the local land use bar as well as to our clients.

I am happy to answer any questions which you may have. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Buchbinder

SJB/mer

cc: Mr. Darrell Azure

**Michael A. Feldman**  
40 Judith Road  
Newton, MA 02459

October 15, 2009

Nancy Grissom  
City of Newton  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

**RE: CPA – Scanning Record Plans from Vault**

Dear Nancy:

I am writing today to express my support for the project of obtaining CPA funds to help convert the City of Newton's plans from the vault to digital files. Being both a resident of the City and the President of Land Surveying business in Boston I understand the value of having these documents archived for future use.

As a City of Newton resident with great pride in the history and progressiveness of Newton, I want to know that our historic records are being preserved in the way that other towns are doing. Once these records are properly scanned and then organized in a database, the City staff will be able to provide this information and access it in a much timelier manner which will definitely lead to cost savings over time. Instead of having more staff dedicated to searching for plans, you will have them dedicating their time to other more useful activities like helping residents with their engineering needs and taking care of ongoing projects that make our City a better place in which to live and a better place for others to visit.

As a land surveyor, the first step we need to take when we do work in a given municipality is to visit the town or city to obtain any and all record plans that show street layouts and utilities. This is necessary since it is our job to then go out and re-establish street lines to do our boundary survey work. Also, if any clients need to tie into utilities, then this information is just as important. Since some of the city's streets are very old and historic, we need this information to be readily available to us and the best way to achieve this, is to have your engineering department have digital files of these plans. With the values of Newton properties being what they are, it is more important than ever to do highly accurate, indisputable boundary surveying because every square foot of land carries a high price tag – and we cannot achieve this without adequate records provided to us by the municipalities.

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you about this so please feel free to call me at work between the hours of 6:30am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday at 617-357-9740 or email me at [mfeldman@harryfeldman.com](mailto:mfeldman@harryfeldman.com).

Sincerely,



Michael A. Feldman

October 15, 2009

Howard A. Levine  
D 617.951.9290  
F 617.261.3175  
howard.levine@klgates.com

Ms. Nancy Grissom  
Community Preservation Committee  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

Re: Request from City of Newton Engineering Department for CPA Funds

Dear Ms. Grissom:

I am writing to support the above request for funds that would allow the scanning and digitizing of the materials in the "vault" of the City's Engineering Department. I am sending my support from the perspectives of a former City Solicitor, an attorney who has represented many developers, and as a Professor at Boston College Law School who teaches "Real Estate Transactions, Development and Finance" and "State and Local Government Law".

The materials, documentation and historic background contained in the books, papers and plans in the Engineering "vault" are critical to all property owners in the City. All too frequently, homeowners who perhaps need a drainage pipe repaired or replaced, or a major developer who could produce a project that would bring thousands of tax dollars to the City are stalled because of the time it takes our Engineering employees to locate the documentation so they can move forward. The amount of time our employees must devote to this search is also very expensive to the City. If the materials were scanned and readily available not only would projects be expedited, but our employees would be more productive.

In the course of my time as City Solicitor and then in private practice, I often was required to have Engineering find historic backup information. I can testify to the incredible value the scanning will add to the City's ability to provide service. Also, I have learned through my academic endeavors that most communities have undertaken this kind of project to great success. In short, it is a necessity, not an extravagance.

Sincerely,



Howard A. Levine

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Ms. Nancy Grissom  
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HAL:kw

cc: Darrell Azure  
Lou Taverna  
Department of Public Works

VIP  
ASSOCIATES  
INC.

LAND SURVEYORS — CIVIL ENGINEERS  
MORTGAGE INSPECTION  
SPECIALISTS

TEL (617) 332-8271 / 965-4870  
TELEFAX (617) 969-2330  
EMAIL: vtp@vtpassociates.com

132 ADAMS STREET  
2ND FLOOR, SUITE 3  
NEWTON, MA 02458

October 15, 2009

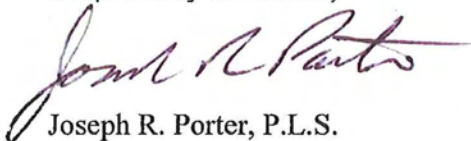
City of Newton  
Engineering Department  
1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Plans in vault

To Whom It May Concern:

The plans in the vault should be scanned to facilitate their use to prevent loss, destruction or further deterioration of information. These plans are vital as they contain much information; including water/sewer pipes, utilities & subdivision information. These plans are necessary to retrace the original surveyor's steps. With the loss of these plans we would have many areas of the city with little or no information on how they were developed. To have a database of this information is of utmost importance to future planning within the City of Newton. Information will be utilized by the engineering department, planning board, water & sewer as well as to serve as a historical record. To the general public to help recreate lot and street information, as well as know where the utilities that serve the area are.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph R. Porter, P.L.S.

October 14, 2009

Nancy Grissom, Chairman  
Community Preservation Act Committee  
City Hall  
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Chairman Grissom:

I am writing to support the granting of CPA funds to create a digital library of the plans and documents of the City of Newton Engineering Department. I believe this is critical to the present and future of the City of Newton as plans and documents fade, become lost or otherwise damaged, and the indexing and general ability to easily locate them deteriorates. These plans, notes and documents are essential parts of the City's history, but even more importantly form a critical part of working information for this and future generations.

In 1971, fresh out of Boston University School of Law, I joined the City Solicitor's office, and later remained deeply involved with the City as both a member of various committees and citizen task forces, and also as a member of the private land use bar. Institutional memory within the City consisted of quite a few employees with deeply rooted knowledge of the City's infrastructure, history and layout. They knew what were the plans (mostly linen with an increasing number of mylar type) and notes and documents, and where they were. Those staff have turned over quite a few times since 1971, and the volume and number of these materials have increased exponentially. Many of the plans are torn, fading, or just plain lost.

The staff within the City and the citizenry in general desperately need a project to reclaim, restore, digitally preserve and organize these materials! With scanning and programs which can even restore faded plans, CPA funds can assure future generations of these essential records and the plans which reveal the fabric of Newton – both above and below the ground.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

Jason A, Rosenberg

JAR:arj