

City of Newton, Massachusetts Office of the Mayor

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October 14, 2004

Attn: Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Dear Newton Parks and Recreation Commission,

I am pleased to write in support of the Farlow Park/Chaffin Park Historic Preservation and Recreation Study submitted by the Friends of Farlow Park and the City of Newton's Parks and Recreation Commission. The Friends have done a remarkable job of revitalizing interest in this project. By submitting the proposal of preparation of a historic preservation and recreation study that will provide plans to preserve and restore Newton's first park and public recreation facility, it will preserve its continued use and enjoyment for residents.

Farlow Park once had a lovely pond, a handsome Adirondack style bridge, a Bandstand and a gazebo. Skaters enjoyed the frozen pond in winter months and it served as a popular retreat in warmer weather. I applaud the Friend's decision to go forward on this important project and I support their continued commitment. The goal of restoring the rich history of Farlow Park has wide neighborhood appeal and support and deserves every consideration. I hope you will approve the proposal submitted by the Friends so Farlow Park may be restored to its former glory as one of Newton's loveliest parks.

I appreciate your time and attention on this matter.

Very truly yours,

David B. Cohen

Mayor

1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

www.ci.newton.ma.us



NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



MAYOR

70 Crescent Street, Newton, MA 02466 Office: 617 796-1500 Fax: 617 796-1512



November 2, 2004

Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton City Hall Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Subject: CPA Proposal, Farlow Park/Chaffin Park, Historic Preservation and Recreation Study

Dear Ms. Goldson:

The Friends of Farlow Park proposed to the Parks & Recreation Commission, a CPA proposal, Farlow Park/Chaffin Park, Historic Preservation and Recreation Study. The proposal is for the preparation of a study to provide plans to preserve and restore Farlow Park.

The Parks & Recreation Commission voted 6 for and 1 abstaining on the CPA proposal for Farlow Park/Chaffin Park, Historic Preservation and Recreation Study on Monday, October 18, 2004.

The Parks & Recreation Commission supports the Farlow Park Proposal and asks that the Community Preservation Committee look favorably on its approval as it is a worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Fran Towle

Commissioner

Cc: Keith Jones, Friends of Farlow Park

City of Newton



Newton Free Library

Kathy Glick-Weil, Library Director

330 Homer Street Newton, Massachusetts 02459 Telephone: (617) 796-1360 / FAX: (617) 965-8457 www.ci.newton.ma.us



November 10, 2004

Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

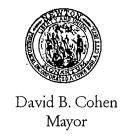
Dear Jennifer,

I am pleased to write a letter of support for CPA funding of a study leading to the possible restoration of Farlow Park and Chaffin Park. I am particularly in favor of a study, as it should clarify for all involved not only what is involved to restore the Parks, but also the requirements for on-going maintenance to insure that any restored landscaping maintains its health and beauty. The Newton Corner Branch Library site would certainly benefit from attractive, well maintained landscaping and seating areas.

Sincerely,

Kathy Glick-Weil

Kathy gliebe-lovel



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Planning and Development Michael J. Kruse, Director Telephone (617)-796-1120 Telefax (617) 796-1142

November 22, 2004

Community Preservation Committee c/o Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

RE: Farlow Park and Chaffin Park Restoration Project

Dear Community Preservation Committee Members:

The Newton Historical Commission would like to express its strong support for the Friends of Farlow Park and the Parks and Recreation Department's grant application to complete a study which will provide plans for the preservation and restoration of Newton Corner's Farlow and Chaffin Parks. Both parks are historically and architecturally significant for their association with numerous prominent Newton citizens, with the development of the City's early recreation facilities, and with the development of their Newton Corner neighborhood. Both are also listed on the National Register as contributing properties within the Farlow and Kenrick Parks National Register District.

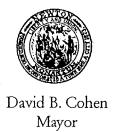
As the City's first park, and the only City park known to be associated with prominent 19th century architect George Frederick Meacham, designer of the Boston Public Gardens, Farlow Park holds a unique place in the history of the City's recreational spaces and the development of Newton Corner. Completed in 1888 on land donated by local philanthropist John Farlow, this was the first space in the City to be designed purely for the recreation and enjoyment of the surrounding residential neighborhood. While later alterations and the removal of the central pond and Victorian style bridge have impacted the park's original scheme, its general design and gently curving pathways are still readily apparent. In the same respect, as a surviving portion of the original Chaffin estate, Chaffin Park has close ties to the development of Newton Corner and while altered, has retained a close association with the estate's ca. 1845 Greek Revival style mansion, now the Newton Corner Branch Library. However, it too has lost several of its most notable original features. The proposed study will be an important first step in the preservation of the site's existing historic resources and the restoration of their lost design elements.

The Farlow and Chaffin Parks are unique neighborhood landscapes which have retained their historic setting, layout, and use. Their restoration will make a significant impact on the integrity of these historic City resources and the Newton Historical Commission hopes that you will look favorably upon this grant application.

Sincerely,

John S. Rodman, Chairman Newton Historical Commission

Newton Historical Commission



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Planning and Development Michael J. Kruse, Director



October 15, 2004

Dear Newton Community Preservation Committee:

The Newton Corner Advisory Committee (NCAC) for the Newton Community Development Program writes this letter in support of the "Farlow Park/Chaffin Park Historic Preservation and Recreation" proposal submitted by the Friends of Farlow Park and the Parks & Recreation Department. The Newton Corner Advisory Committee is a resident-based group that provides guidance on how to spend Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the Newton Corner Target Neighborhood.

Farlow Park and Chaffin Park are situated in the heart of the Newton Corner village surrounded by the Newton Corner Branch Library, several schools, a local commercial strip, elderly housing, and numerous churches. Improvements to these parks are considered critical because their condition represents how residents feel about their community, i.e. great parks make great neighborhoods. While a solid base still exists, much more attention needs to be paid to restoring the beauty and grandeur that is the core of the original park designs.

The Community Development Division of the Planning & Development Department is undergoing a five-year planning process for the CDBG Program for Fiscal Years 2006-2010. As a result, the NCAC has held several meetings over the past few months, including a public meeting, to determine the area's needs and develop priorities. Though the planning process is not yet complete, the NCAC has highly ranked certain park improvements. It is a priority of the Committee to beautify the parks in Newton Corner, including Chaffin and Farlow Parks, by providing funding for quality and attractive park signage; ample, sturdy, maintenance-free recycled plastic benches (ideally utilizing the existing ornamental frames found in Farlow and Chaffin Parks and simply replacing the slats); and decorative trash receptacles. Picnic tables are also recommended at Chaffin Park. In addition to these possible future plans, the CDBG program has committed some modest funds for landscaping improvements around the rear entrance of the Newton Corner Branch Library.

In summary, the Community Development staff and the NCAC are supportive of this planning initiative and are pleased to possibly dovetail resources to improve arguably Newton Corner's most valuable assets. Do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 796-1139 or NCAC Chairperson Tom Coan at (617) 332-1839 with any questions. We thank you for your consideration of this worthy proposal.

Sincerely

auco

Danielle Baile/ Community Development Planner

Staff Liaison for the Newton Corner Advisory Committee



NEWTON CORNER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Dear Community Preservation Committee:

The Newton Corner Neighborhood Association supports the current proposal before your committee for the restoration of Farlow Park.

The members of our advisory board unanimously and enthusiastically support it, as do the two moderators of our organization and, as the many letters from abutting churches and other organizations attest, it has deep and broad based support throughout our community.

Our membership consists of over 500 families and only two persons have seen this fine proposal and thought it not an excellent and much needed improvement to our neighborhood. There may be an individual or two who oppose this plan for reasons of their own, or for personal notoriety. They are in the extreme minority and we hope they will be given only the small amount of attention they deserve.

yours,
Richard Belkin
Tom Coan
Moderators of the Newton Corner
Neighborhood Association
617-2445759 or 332-1839

24 Whittemore Road Newton, MA 02458 October 14, 2004

Ms Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 024591

Dear Ms Goldson,

On behalf of the Newton Corner Neighborhood Association, the Newton Corner CDBG Advisory Committee, and personally, I am writing to strongly support the CPA application to fund Farlow Park renovations. Farlow Park is a City gem, and a Newton Corner gem. As a life long resident of Newton Corner I have enjoyed the beauty of this park since childhood. The park has great historical significance and is enjoyed by increasing numbers of people.

The multi-phase proposal reflects the committee's excellent research and preparation. Approval and funding of this proposal is an excellent first step to restore the elegance of Farlow Park. Furthermore it is also a step forward to save the City the costs to fix the existing park bridge which is in rapid decay and in need of expensive repairs.

The proposal's first phase will fund the experts needed to develop the comprehensive plan, outline the various options available to achieve that plan, and produce realistic cost estimates. In this manner the Farlow Park restoration could potentially proceed in multiple, yet integrated phases. This proposal is highly deserving of CPA funding and I encourage your support.

Thomas M. Coan

Chairman, Newton Corner CDBG Advisory Committee Co-Moderator, Newton Corner Neighborhood Association



UNDERWOOD PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR CHILDREN

101 Vernon Street, Newton, MA 02458

October 14, 2004

Ms Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

RE: Farlow Park Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Goldson:

At a regular meeting of the Underwood Parent Teacher Organization on October 7, 2004, the proposal to study the restoration of Farlow Park was discussed. The Underwood School Parent Teacher Organization unanimously voted to support the study of the restoration of Farlow Park. We are excited about this project. The bridge, in particular, is in need of restoration. We are glad to support the restoration of the park in any way we can.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Nathan Gibson Co-President

The Eliot Church of Newton

A United Church of Christ

474 Centre Street, Newton, Massachusetts 02458 Voice 617 - 244 - 3639 Fax 617 - 244 - 7699

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

November 10, 2004

Dear Ms. Goldson,

I am writing to express strong support for the proposed Phase I for the historic preservation study of Farlow and Chaffin Parks.

As the moderator of the Eliot Church of Newton, I can express the support of our church for the preservation of these two important parks. The benefits of enhancing these historic public places would be many.

Since its founding in 1845, Eliot Church has occupied the property on the corner of Centre and Church Street. Farlow Park abuts the rear of our church property while Chaffin Park is to the side of the Church.

Every week, hundreds of people visit our Church for our Sunday Services, community meetings, choral rehearsals and recitals and other events. Unfortunately, many of them traverse one or two poorly maintained parks (one with a cement slab at its center) with few of the amenities found in the 1888 photos.

We hope that you will approve this proposal to study the restoration of these parks.

Sincerely,

Moderator of the Eliot Church of Newton

ame Cak Ja



Anthony S. Kill Pastor

Polleen Stiriti Director of Christian Education

Brunhilde Engelhardt Interim Music Director

> Carly Baker Youth Director

Terri Whitney - Jackson Church Administrator

Parkside Pre-School 474 Centre Street Newton, MA 02458 617-965-7867

Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson,

As the Directors of Parkside Pre-School, located at the Eliot Church, and interested members of the neighborhood, we would like to add our support to the many "Friends of Farlow Park" in their effort to enhance and beautify the park. It is a valuable resource of pleasure and enjoyment for many and should be restored and maintained.

Gretchen Hunt Sharon Cronin Directors, Parkside Pre-School



October 26, 2004

Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson,

As Senior Pastor of Newton Presbyterian Church I am writing this letter in support of the Farlow Park and Chaffin Park preservation and recreation study. Our church is right across the street from the northeast corner of Farlow Park. Often our parishioners visit this area after services, particularly if they have children. A restored park with attractive grounds can only make these grounds more inviting and serve to provide the entire community a special area for leisure activities and sport.

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert K. Perkins

Presbyterian Church Nursery School

75 Vernon Street Newton MA 02458
phone 617.332.9255 x 1 fax 617.332.4124 email nurseryschool@newtonpres.org

October 13, 2004

Ms. Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02460

Dear Ms. Goldson,

This letter is written in strong support of the proposed Phase I for the historic preservation study of Farlow and Chaffin Parks.

As Director of the Presbyterian Church Nursery School (75 Vernon Street), a clean, safe, historic park could provide endless opportunities for the children and their families to explore and learn. The benefits would be long-lasting!

As a 35-year member of the Newton Presbyterian Church (75 Vernon Street), I can envision many uses for the parks for our church members as well as for the other 3 neighboring churches.

Thank you very much. I wish you well as you thoughtfully make your decisions for the present and future of Newton.

Yours truly,

Ann MacKay, Director

The Rev. Miriam C. Gelfer Grace Episcopal Church 76 Eldredge Street Newton, MA 02458

November 16, 2004

Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson,

I am writing in support of the proposal by the Friends of Farlow Park. Restoring Farlow Park and Chaffin Park to their original beauty can only enhance all of the buildings surrounding these parks and the lives of all of us who live and work in Newton Corner.

As the Rector of a historical Church, I can assure you that the lay leadership of our parish is dedicated to preserving the beauty of its own structures, and that we all recognize the value that such restoration projects can bring to the entire community.

I strongly urge you to consider the proposal of the Friends of Farlow Park for the restoration of Farlow Park and Chaffin Park.

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Miriam C. Gelfer

Rector

Cc: Dr. Keith Jones, Larry Bauer, Harry Rosser, Mary Malagodi



NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

at The Jackson Homestead

Headquartered at The Newton History Museum

Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton MA 02459

RE: Farlow Park Renovations

November 15, 2004

Dear Ms. Goldson and Members of the Newton Community Preservation Committee:

On behalf of the Newton Historical Society I am pleased to write in support of the submission before you by the Friends of Farlow Park and the City's Parks and Recreation Commission for a preservation study of Farlow Park. The study proposed in this phase of work would advance plans for reconstruction of the historic park design including the pond, bridge and gazebo that graced the park in the 19th Century. The realization of such a plan would be a splendid benefit to our City.

We wish to draw the Committee's attention to one facet of the proposed study that concerns us, however. The study's proposed Task VII is to evaluate the restoration or replication of the gazebo, which is presently on the grounds of the Jackson Homestead. The narrative in the grant application suggests that replication may be the preferred option. The Historical Society has already determined that it is feasible to restore the gazebo. We have also budgeted funds to pay for the materials associated with this project and have discussed reconstruction with the Preservation Carpentry Program of the North Bennet Street School, which has recently provided us with the new front fence at The Jackson Homestead. They may be interested in participating as part of this larger effort as well.

We believe that it is preferable to work with existing historic fabric wherever possible. We therefore encourage you to support this application with the provision that permission to relocate the original gazebo, and restored it as part of the park plan, be sought from the City of Newton.

Sincerely,

Peter Dimond, President

October 20, 2004



Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Department 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

RE: Farlow Park Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Goldson,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Evans Park at Newton Corner and Benchmark Assisted Living Communities in full support of the application of the Friends of Farlow Park and the Parks and Recreation Commission to begin the restoration process for this landmark park.

Being an assisted living community that has existed in the neighborhood for more than ten years many, if not most, of our residents are long-standing residents of Newton. As a matter of fact, an historic picture of Farlow Park hangs over the fireplace in our lobby. Our residents remember the pond, Adirondack style bridge, bandstand and gazebo and frequently reminisce about their fond memories of visits with their families in the summer and winter months.

We at Benchmark are thrilled about the idea of restoring the Park to its original beauty and applaud the decision to go forward with this important project.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance in your decision process.

Sincerely,

Christen Bergeron
Executive Director

/lsk

October 22, 2004

Jennifer Goldson
Community Preservation Planner
Newton Planning and Development Department
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson:

As a resident of Newton since 1985, and a homeowner in Newton Corner for over fifteen years, I am thrilled to know that the City of Newton is taking the restoration of Farlow and Chaffin Parks under serious consideration. I have always loved living in Newton Corner due to the great location, and having the park immediately across the street has always been a great bonus! I am excited to learn that the restoration of this park(s) is in the works. Not only do I fully support the restoration of Farlow Park, but I am also happy to advocate for this project in whatever ways I capable.

Thank you,

Jamet J. Sterman

cc: Keith Jones, Friends of Farlow Park

36 Billings Park Newton MA 02458 October 15, 2004

Community Preservation Committee
Attn: Ms. Jennifer Goldson, Community Preservation Planner
Planning & Development Department
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre MA 02459

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Re: Farlow Park/Chaffin Park Historic Preservation and Recreation Study

I am writing to express my strong support for the application of the Friends of Farlow Park and the Parks and Recreation Commission to begin the restoration process for one of the City's neglected gems, the adjacent Farlow and Chaffin Parks. Those of us in this area are appreciative of living in a National Historic District, and we recognize that our parks have undergone changes over the years that have been inconsistent with their historic importance and location.

As a neighbor for more than three decades, I have witnessed the under-utilization of these historic open spaces and have had occasion to lament the absence of the original design focal point, the bridge and pond that drew our forebears to active recreation on this site. Restoration of the bridge and pond will bring neighbors, visitors, and even small wildlife flocking back. The inclusion of the Chaffin House (Library) grounds is important to complement the funds already allocated to the restoration of that historic building.

The plan to address the project in stages, with \$65,500 requested from CPA funds for the assessment and design phase, is measured and responsible. I urge your support and positive recommendation to the Board of Aldermen.

Very truly yours, Blookd K. Lepsett

Brooke K. Lipsitt

October 25, 2004

Dear Ms. Goldson,

We are Newton Corner residents and are writing in support of the Farlow Park Restoration Project. We live on Eldredge Street and have two children in the Newton public schools. We have spent endless hours with our children in that park and walk through it almost every day. We have seen pictures of the park from the early 1900s and would love to see it return to it's former glory. What a positive way to enrich Newton's legacy for generations to come. It would be so great to emphasize Victorian architectural elements which were so prevalent when the park was established.

I realize that adding a pond brings with it many new problems. Safety and water flow issues have to be considered. If it is determined that water is too problematic, restoration of the bridge and walkways would still be worth the effort.

Please support this valuable endeavor.

Kaluere beech Katherine Nimkin

Khether Raby 93 Eldredge St

Newton MA 02458

617-630-1553

DANIEL AND LAURA SHAW 116 Church Street Newton MA 02458 9617) 969-6682

10-24-2004

Jennifer Goldson Community Preservation Planner Newton Planning and Development Commission Newton MA 02459

Dear Ms. Goldson,

We are abutters of Farlow Park and are writing to express our support for the efforts to restore the bridge and pond to its original design.

Naure Minw

Dan Shaw

Stanefer Goldson, Community Preservation Plan Re: Farlow and Chappin Park Restorate Dear Miss Goldson:

have lived in Newton all of our lives and have susualed on park street for over 50 years. The restoration of our park is a quality of life issue; both a needed asset to our community as well as a long time in coming. Inwton lorner has the least amount of open space of all the villages. There is very little argument that we shouldn't enjoy the greatest quaity of open space.

Sincerely, allen and

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RICHARD B	EVKIN 14	8 PARK 5T 6112	445759 10/13/09
Maureen Offan	Mercer 17.	304Heylk Rd , 617.969-	1669 10/13/04
Mark C.D	gn (32	304/leigh Rd. 617.969- Church St 617-24	4-0285 10/13/04
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Name Address Telephone Number Date

KATH CADE 120 Church St 2 617-965-5136 10/13/04

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NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



MAYOR

70 Crescent Street, Newton, MA 02466 Office: 617 796-1500 Fax: 617 796-1512



JUN 16 444

June 15, 2005

Douglas Dickson, Chairman Community Preservation Committee Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

Dear Chairman Dickson;

I write to inform you of my support for the Friends of Farlow Park proposal for a study. Farlow Park is one of the oldest parks in the City of Newton and was designed by George Fredrick Meachem. Given its historical significance and recreational opportunities, I believe the Friends of Farlow Park's recommendation for a study is sensible.

On October 18, 2005 the Parks & Recreation Commission passed this proposal for a study based on its own merit. Further, the Friends proposal was the best and most complete one presented to the Commission. As Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, I too support the study to improve the park. A thorough analysis of Farlow Park would be very useful to determine the best way to improve the Park and preserve this historically significant Newton Park.

In addition, the Friends have raised over \$4,000 toward their project and have proven to be a reputable partner with the City.

If I can provide you any further information about this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Fran Towle, Commissioner

Cc: Keith Jones, Friends of Farlow Park