

City of Newton



David B. Cohen
Mayor

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



February 3, 2003

Jeffrey Sacks, Chairman
Community Preservation Committee
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Mr. Sacks,

I understand that several issues were brought up by the CPC when discussing the library's application for CPA funds to restore the exterior of the Newton Corner Branch Library.

First, the Committee would like to know if there is other possible funding available. Since the Newton Corner Branch Library is a significant element in a Historic District, the restoration project qualifies for Historic Preservation grant funding from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The work we are proposing falls into their "Development Project" category, with grant amounts ranging from \$7,500 to \$100,000. Grants pay for up to 50% of total costs, with contingency costs not eligible. The library project is estimated to cost slightly over \$195,000 including a \$30,000 contingency, so we could apply for a grant of \$82,500.

Acceptance of funding from this grant, however, would require that the City record a permanent preservation restriction and maintenance agreement on the building. This restriction requires that any substantial change to the building, into perpetuity, would require the approval of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. I have spoken to the Mayor's Office at length about this issue, and they don't feel that now is the time to enter into a permanent restriction on the Newton Corner Branch Library. Although the Mayor is committed to maintaining the building, he doesn't feel that a restriction into perpetuity is appropriate.

The CPC was also concerned about using CPA funds to correct some of the work that was designed into the Community Development Block Grant project that was completed at the Branch Library last summer. This involves the cement porch foundation that was designed to butt up against the shingled exterior wall of the building. Water can collect

here, and will cause the shingles to rot. I understand that it would be a problem to use CPA funding to correct something that had just been done with federal funds, so I have spoken to Dick Corbett, the City's Building Maintenance Supervisor. He has assured me that his workmen will be able to excavate the edge of this porch so that it not longer directly meets the shingles, allowing the water to run off. The cost in the proposal to do this work is \$800 so I have removed this amount from the application, bringing the total request down to \$195,129.

I know that you also had questions about future maintenance of the building, and Nick Parnell has sent you a letter describing the future maintenance he will be providing to the building.

I plan to be at the next CPC meeting on February 5, and hope I can answer any other questions you have at that time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Glick-Weil". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kathy Glick-Weil

City of Newton

David B. Cohen
Mayor

PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

A. NICHOLAS PARNELL, AIA, COMMISSIONER

Telephone (617) 552-7007

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52 ELLIOT STREET

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MA 02461-1605

Maintenance Division 552-7188

Design Division 552-7009/7010

Energy Division 552-7008

January 31, 2003

Mr. Jeffrey Sacks, Chairman
Community Preservation Committee
45 Old Colony Road
Newton, MA 02467

Re: City Hall and Newton Corner Library

Dear Mr. Sacks:

The City's Public Buildings Department recognizes that Newton's public buildings are great assets that require care and maintenance.

Funding for such maintenance is available either through the City's Capital Improvment Plan (CIP) or the Public Buildings Department's annual maintenance budget using the services of in house personnel or contract craftsmen. The identification and scheduling of any necessary maintenance and repair is accomplished through an annual needs assessment program administered by Building Department staff.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information concerning maintenance of our public buildings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Nicholas Parnell".

A. Nicholas Parnell, AIA
Public Buildings Commissionercc. Kathy Glick-Weil
Art Cabral