

City of Newton



City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Community Preservation Committee



David B. Cohen  
Mayor

TO: Honorable Board Of Aldermen  
FROM: Andrew Stern, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee  
DATE: 25 August 2005  
RE: **CPC Recommendation for Additional Funding  
for the Newton Corner Branch Library**

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At a special meeting on August 25, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) voted unanimously to recommend an additional \$55,700 of CPA funding for the Newton Corner Branch Library historic preservation project to respond to an urgent change-order request by the contractor. The project was originally funded in the amount of \$195,129 through Board Order #120-03, and received additional funding last year in the amount of \$41,000 through Board Order #69-05 due to the bid price which exceeded the cost of the original estimate and budget.

The additional \$55,700 is being requested due to the severe deterioration of the existing slate roof, which was only detected recently after the city had access to the contractor's lifts. The original application only budgeted for repairs to the slate roof, rather than a full replacement.

The CPC is recommending this request for additional funding because the slate roof is a prominent architectural feature and historically significant element of this Greek Revival building. The alternative of replacing the slate with an asphalt roof would compromise the integrity of this historic resource. In addition, although the initial outlay of capital for an asphalt roof would only be about half as much as the slate roof, the slate roof has a much longer typical lifecycle of 75-100 years. Due to the impending end of the construction season, we respectfully urge your expedited consideration of this recommendation.

Please find attached the original CPC Recommendation and Board Orders, a letter from Kathy Glick-Weil dated August 24, and a draft Board Order for the additional request of \$55,700 your consideration. Please contact Jennifer Goldson at 617-796-1131 or by email at [jgoldson@newtonma.gov](mailto:jgoldson@newtonma.gov) if you need further information regarding this matter.

Thank you.

cc: Mayor David B. Cohen  
Kathy Glick-Weil, Executive Director of the Newton Free Library  
A. Nicolas Parnell, Public Buildings Commissioner