



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

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Commission on Disability

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Candace Havens
Director

September 10, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Salvucci
Chair, Public Facilities Committee
Members, Public Facilities Committee
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Alderman Salvucci and Members of the Public Facilities Committee:

On behalf of the Commission on Disability, we are voicing our support for approval of the additional requested Community Preservation Act funding for the Jackson Homestead/Newton History Museum Archives, Accessibility, and Fire Suppression project.

The Commission on Disability has invested significant funding and time into this important project, and believes that the project must proceed. We are the primary advisory committee on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for architectural access projects. We supported this project and recommended that \$40,000 in CDBG funds go toward building an accessible ramp into the Jackson Homestead/Newton History Museum building. Mayor Warren approved the use of funds for the ramp, which is one of the many accessibility upgrades that are included in the Archives, Accessibility, and Fire Suppression project scope. We then worked with the Public Buildings Department in their request for several variances from the regulations of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board related to the project, finding appropriate solutions to ensure accessibility within an historic property.

The additional funds the Public Buildings Department is requesting will allow the necessary Jackson Homestead/Newton History Museum Archives, Accessibility, and Fire Suppression project to be completed. We hope that you will support the request and agree with the Commission on Disability that this project is critical to ensuring that all people can visit the Museum and learn about our City's proud history.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about the contents in this letter.

Sincerely,



Robert Caruso, Co-Chair
Commission on Disability



Girard A. Plante, Co-Chair
Commission on Disability