

YMCA



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Planning and Development
Michael J. Kruse, Director

Telephone
(617)-796-1120
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David B. Cohen
Mayor

November 20, 2003

Community Preservation Committee
C/o Jennifer Goldson
Community Preservation Planner
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Letter in support of YMCA application for CPA funding

Dear CPC members:

This letter comes in support of the YMCA's application for funding through the CPA to restore the fenestration of the Y's 1911 building to its original appearance with the use of appropriate energy-efficient glass.

The Newton Historical Commission believes that this building is of considerable local significance to our community. Designed in the Colonial Revival style by Edmond Leeds, the building occupies a large hilltop site overlooking the Massachusetts Turnpike and Farlow Kenrick Park. Furthermore, the Newton YMCA has been an active community gathering place for children, families, and the people of Newton for the past 90 years. These reasons make it a particularly suitable structure for historical renovation and restoration and we believe that the Y's proposed project is a worthy candidate for CPA funds.

I hope that the CPC will give this proposal favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Rodman".

John S. Rodman
Chairman, Newton Historical Commission

Newton Historical Commission
1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts 02459
Email: lkritzer@ci.newton.ma.us
www.ci.newton.ma.us



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David B. Cohen
Mayor

January 23, 2004

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

RE: Designation of Local Significance – 276 Church Street, West Suburban YMCA

Dear Mr. Sacks:

On behalf of the Newton Historical Commission, I am writing to tell you that the Commission has determined the West Suburban YMCA building, located at 276 Church Street, to be an historic resource which is significant to the history and culture of the City of Newton as defined under the Community Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 44B, Section 2. At their meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2004, the Commission met with YMCA representative Mark Holman and reviewed the history of the building and YMCA in Newton. The ca. 1911 Colonial Revival style building was one of the first buildings in the country to be built specifically for the YMCA, and in that respect could be considered significant on both a local and national level. Active in Newton since the 1870s, it has made an important contribution to the social and cultural history to the village of Newton Corner and the City as a whole. It has also been a ground-breaking leader in establishing athletic programs and fitness facilities for community use. Lastly, the building is a traditional example of a Colonial Revival style institutional building which is in a highly visible location and which has had remarkably few alterations made to the original structure since its construction.

For these reasons, the Newton Historical Commission has determined, by a vote of 6 to 0 with 1 abstention, that this property constitutes a historic resource which is worthy for consideration under the Community Preservation Act. The Commission had previously indicated to the CPC that they found the proposed work to be historically consistent with the architectural design of the building and has resolved to provide this follow-up letter to facilitate the consideration of funding to restore this historic resource.

Sincerely,

Lara Kritzer
Preservation Planner

Newton Historical Commission
1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts 02459
Email: lkritzer@ci.newton.ma.us
www.ci.newton.ma.us

EXHIBIT A



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 18, 2000

Barry J. Lavallo
West Suburban YMCA
276 Church Street
Newton, MA 02458

RE: West Suburban YMCA, 276 Church Street, Newton, MA; MHC# 26762

Dear Mr. Lavallo:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission has reviewed the information you submitted, received August 23, 2000, concerning the proposed project referenced above. The West Suburban Young Men's Christian Association is a property included in MHC's Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth and has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level for its architectural and social significance in Newton.

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The MHC understands that the proposed project involves the construction of a new swimming pool addition, second-story gymnasium, expanded locker room facilities and a renovation of the after-school program area. The project also includes minor wall penetrations and a retrofit of existing infrastructural systems.

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After review of MHC files and the materials submitted, I have determined that the proposed project, as described in the information from August 23, 2000, will have "no adverse effect" on the historic, architectural, and cultural characteristics of the West Suburban Young Men's Christian Association (950 CMR 71.07(2)(b)(2)).

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These comments are provided to assist in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 9, Sec. 26-27C, as amended by Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 (950 CMR 71.00). If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Wetstein of this office.

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Sincerely,

Judith B. McDonough

Judith B. McDonough
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

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cc: Newton Historical Commission

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