

City of Newton



City of Newton, Massachusetts
Community Preservation Committee



David B. Cohen
Mayor

TO: Alderman Steven Linsky, Chair
Committee for Community Preservation
FROM: Charlie McMillan, Member *JG for CM*
Community Preservation Committee
DATE: 19 November 2004
RE: West Suburban YMCA – additional information

This memo is in response to questions that were raised at your last meeting on October 26 regarding the West Suburban YMCA CPA application.

1. Why weren't the third floor windows included in the application?

Answer: According to Pat Palmer, Executive Director of the West Suburban YMCA, the third floor windows were replaced just two years ago with vinyl replacement windows that match the existing sashes. This was completed in conjunction with 28 units of affordable housing on the third floor.

2. Were the vinyl replacement windows that the YMCA was considering for the first and second floors divided in the same way as existing (12/3 on first floor and 8/3 on second)?

Answer: Yes.

**3. Request copy of Law Department memo on using CPA funds for religious institutions.
See attached.**

4. Would the Historical Commission (NHC) consider landmarking the building in addition to the Preservation Restriction that would be required as a condition of funding?

Answer: The NHC is reluctant to use landmarking for a CPA funded project when a Preservation Restriction accomplishes the same result with no potential watering down of the landmark ordinance. Landmarking has a very high standard behind it, while the Preservation Restrictions are useful for a wider range of historic properties. This is not to say that the YMCA could not be considered for landmarking at the request of an Alderman or other party, but, at present, no such request is before the NHC.

If you have any further questions, please contact Jennifer Goldson at 617-796-1131.

cc: Community Preservation Committee
Jennifer Goldson, CPA Program Manager