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**Community Preservation Committee
Funding Recommendation for the
Newton Architectural Survey 1940-1972 Project**

Date: January 21, 2022
From: Community Preservation Committee
To: The Honorable City Council

PROJECT GOALS & ELIGIBILITY This proposal requests \$17,500 in CPA funds, under the category of historic resources, to hire historic preservation consultants to undertake a new survey of approximately 140 properties constructed between 1940 and 1972. This work builds on previous studies completed in 2001 and 2003 which looked at the City's development in the mid-twentieth century and identified a list of then 50 year old structures and neighborhoods which warrant further study. The proposed project will extend the timeframe of the previous studies to include properties built through 1972 and will be completed in coordination with the Survey and Planning grant program from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

This project is eligible for CPA funding under historic resources as it provides important baseline information for the preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of Newton's Historic Resources.

RECOMMENDED FUNDING At its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, the Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommended, with a vote of 9 to 0, that \$17,500 in Community Preservation Act funding be appropriated from the FY22 Historic Resource Reserve Fund to the control of the Planning & Development Department for the completion of the Newton Architectural Survey of structures built between 1940 and 1972.

Proposed CPA Funding Accounts for the Newton Architectural Survey, 1940-1972 Project			
Account Name	Account Number	Amount Currently Available in Account	Proposed Amount for Newton Architectural Survey Project
FY22 Historic Resource Reserve Funds	#58B10498-57900B	\$37,122	\$17,500
Total Project Funds			\$17,500

SPECIAL ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE CPC

Community Need: The Applicant noted in the project proposal that this period of Newton's development has been the subject of several recent discussions by City Councilors and the Newton Historical Commission as they considered potential changes to the City's existing Demolition Delay

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and Local Landmark Ordinances. During these discussions, it was noted that more information is needed on this period in the City’s development and the resources it produced. This goal is also reflected in the City’s Comprehensive Plan, Section 9, Action #3, which states that the City should “Continue using and supporting Newton’s existing regulatory tools for preservation” by providing the critical details needed for properties under review by the Demolition Delay and Landmark Review Ordinances. In addition, both the 2001 City of Newton Demolition Review and Post WWII Housing Survey and the 2003 Communitywide Survey of Mid-20th Century Housing encouraged further study of the architectural styles and housing forms built in Newton from the 1950s onward.

Project Budget: The recommended CPA funding represents 50% of the project budget. The Applicant is in the process of applying for federal grant funds through the Massachusetts Historical Commission’s Survey and Planning Grant program which would provide the 50% match to the project. In addition, the City’s Preservation Planning staff will be providing their time and expertise to manage the project and will handle all of the administrative requirements of the funding match.

Historic Significance: Mid-twentieth century resources are a significant part of the City’s historic fabric and represents a vital period of its development. However, this period is one of the least studied Newton, with over 3,000 known resources yet to be reviewed. The proposed project is a first step to better understanding Newton’s mid-twentieth century development and how this period reshaped the City into its current form. The Newton Historical Commission has unanimously voted to support this project and has submitted a letter of support which is included as an attachment.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS (*funding conditions*)

1. CPA Funding will be used to hire consultants to gather the architectural and historical information necessary to complete 140 historic resource inventory forms.
2. The project will be completed according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission’s Survey and Planning grant program requirements and timeframe.
3. All recommended CPA funds should be appropriated by the City Council within 6 months and the project should begin within 1 year of the date of any CPC recommendation. If the City does not receive funding during the current Survey and Planning Grant round for this project, the applicants may submit a written request to the CPC to extend the timeframe of the project to allow for future grant funding rounds.
4. The release of CPA funds should be governed by a grant agreement that includes but is not limited to the usual conditions for the phased release of CPA funds for historic resource projects, including a final report to be presented to the CPC at the close of the project.
5. Any CPA funds appropriated but not used for the purposes stated herein should be returned to the Newton Community Preservation Fund.

KEY OUTCOMES

The Community Preservation Committee anticipates that the project will produce valuable information on 140 of the City’s mid-twentieth century residential, commercial, and institutional resources which will further the preservation opportunities for those structures in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

- Proposal and selected attachments submitted to the CPC for their January 11, 2022 review
- Letters of support received for the project during the review process

Additional information not attached to this recommendation, including petitions and letters of support, are available on the CPC’s website at:

<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/community-preservation-program/proposals-projects/historic>