



Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

Councilor David A. Murphy, Chair

Councilor Jesse M. Adams

Councilor Maureen T. Carney

Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge

**City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building
Northampton, MA**

Meeting Date: May 19, 2016

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting will take place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:05 pm.

- 1. Meeting Called To Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**
- 4. Financial Orders**
 - A. 16.081 To Appropriate \$39,353.78 For Related Infrastructure Upgrades Relative To The Replacement Of The City's VOIP System**

Documents: [16.081_voip.pdf](#)
 - B. 16.082 Financial Order To To Authorize Look Park To Apply For A PARC Grant And Authorize Related Borrowing**

Documents: [16.082_lookpark_par.pdf](#)
 - C. Financial Orders Regarding Community Preservation Committee Recommendations For Funding**
 - 16.083 Stained Glass Window Restoration, First Churches of Northampton: \$213,000**
 - 16.084 Saw Mill Hills Open Space Acquisition, Northampton Conservation Commission: \$72,000**
 - 16.085 Historic Scenic Curtain Restoration, Academy of Music: \$44,785**
 - 16.086 Supportive Housing for Homeless Youth, Friends of Hampshire County Homeless Individuals: \$275,000**
 - 16.087 Conservation Fund, Northampton Conservation**

Commission: \$30,000

16.088 Fitzgerald Lake Invasive Plant Control, Broad Brook Coalition \$12,800

16.089 Shepherd Barn Dendrochronolgy Study, Historic Northampton: \$2,300

16.090 Pulaski Park Renovation and Expansion, Northampton Department of Public Works: \$805,400

Documents: [16.083-16.090_coverletter.pdf](#), [16.083_stained_glass.pdf](#), [16.084_sawmillhillsopenspaceacquisition.pdf](#), [16.085_aom_curtain.pdf](#), [16.086_housing.pdf](#), [16.087_protectopenspace.pdf](#), [16.088_fitzgeraldlakeinvasiveplantcontrol.pdf](#), [16.089_shepherdbarn.pdf](#), [16.090_pulaskiparkrenovation.pdf](#)

D. 16.091 Financial Order To Allow The City's Tree Warden To Accept Gifts Of \$25,000 Or Less

Documents: [16.091_trees.pdf](#)

E. 16.092 Order To Rescind TIF Previously Granted To Grantham Group

Documents: [16.092_rescind_tif_grantham_group.pdf](#)

5. New Business

-Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.

6. Adjourn

Prepared by:

P. Powers, Administrative Assistant to the City Council

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City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016
Upon the recommendation of the Mayor

16.081

AN ORDER

**To appropriate \$39,353.78 for related infrastructure upgrades relative to the replacement of the city's
VOIP system**

Ordered, that:

the City Council appropriate \$39,353.78 from the I-NET Access and Technology Fund (Fund 2620) to be used for related infrastructure upgrades relative to the replacement of the city's VOIP system, and necessary to provide resiliency and redundancy for the city's vital public communication systems.

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016
Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz

16.082
AN ORDER

Authorize Look Park to apply for a PARC grant and authorize related borrowing

Ordered, that:

An order to file and accept grants with and from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations program for improvements to Look Memorial Park

WHEREAS: Look Memorial Park is a city and region-wide asset and park improvements are consistent with the priority for recreation improvements and heritage landscape preservation in the **Northampton Open Space, Recreation and Multiuse Trail Plan: 2011-2018**;

WHEREAS: Look Memorial Park was deeded to the City of Northampton, under the management of a Board of Trustees, with the condition that it "shall be used forever as a park and for no other purpose," thereby consistent with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution: and

WHEREAS: Planned Look Memorial Park improvements to their fountain, water spray park and bathrooms and related energy and water efficiency improvements will enhance the recreation experience; and

WHEREAS: The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is offering reimbursable grants to cities and towns to support the preservation and restoration of urban parks through the Parklands Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant (PARC) program (301 CMR 5.00); The PARC is a reimbursement program which requires that the City demonstrate that it has all of the funds necessary to improve park properties prior to state reimbursement; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That City Council appropriates and authorizes the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, to borrow \$625,000, over 15 years, under M.G.L. c.44B, §11, M.G.L c.44 §8C, or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of improvement of public parks and playgrounds on said property, and the Mayor be authorized to file on behalf of the City of Northampton any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and /or reimbursements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts deemed necessary under the PARC Act (Chapter 933 Acts of 1977, as amended) and/or any others in any way connected with the scope of this Article, and the Mayor be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the City of Northampton to effect said renovation.

And that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to take such other actions as are necessary to carry out the terms, purposes, and conditions of this grant.



*City of Northampton
Community Preservation Committee
210 Main Street, City Hall
Northampton, MA 01060*

May 12, 2016

William H. Dwight
City Council President
210 Main Street, Room 16
Northampton, MA 01060

Re: Community Preservation Committee Recommendations for Funding

Chairman Dwight and City Councilors,

In January, 2016 the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) began reviewing project proposals submitted for CPA funding. After extensive review including applicant presentations, public comment sessions and committee deliberation the CPC unanimously voted to recommend eight funding requests totaling \$1,455,285. Collectively, these projects will leverage just over one and a half million dollars from other funding sources, including state and federal grants, private contributions, and volunteer work.

Complete CPA applications that include detailed information about each project recommended are available at www.archive.northamptonma.gov:8080/WebLink8/0/fol/527862/Row1.aspx, and meeting minutes, information about the CPA, and other project materials can be accessed on the CPC's webpage: www.northamptonma.gov/1048/Community-Preservation-Committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself, or Preservation Planner Sarah LaValley with any questions about the projects, the Committee's recommendations, or if additional information is needed.

Projects Recommended for Funding:

Stained Glass Window Restoration, First Churches of Northampton: \$213,000

These funds will be used to restore two of the historic stained glass windows in the church sanctuary: The Tiffany window, which was gifted to the Church by the Parsons family in 1899, and the Rose window, which faces Main Street.

Saw Mill Hills Open Space Acquisition, Northampton Conservation Commission: \$72,000

This acquisition will add 22 acres to the Saw Mill Hills in Leeds: 3 acres on the western side of Reservoir Road with direct water access, and 19 acres of bluff and views overlooking the reservoir.

Historic Scenic Curtain Restoration, Academy of Music: \$44,785

This project will allow the Academy to restore a scenic curtain depicting a Northampton scene that was recently found stapled to the back of the main stage curtain. It is thought to be the largest remaining historic curtain on the East Coast.

Supportive Housing for Homeless Youth, Friends of Hampshire County Homeless Individuals: \$275,000

CPA funds will be used to contribute to the purchase price of a house in Northampton that will provide up to right units of housing and support service for unaccompanied homeless youth. Homeless individuals between 18 and 25 face a gap in housing services that this home will help to address.

Conservation Fund, Northampton Conservation Commission: \$30,000

This fund creates opportunities for protection of open space and agricultural parcels in Northampton by allowing for fast action on time-sensitive real estate opportunities. The Fund creates an at-hand resource to conduct necessary due diligence work prior to acquisitions.

Fitzgerald Lake Invasive Plant Control, Broad Brook Coalition \$12,800

These funds will allow BBC to continue efforts to control and eliminate several different species of invasive plants that are damaging critical habitats essential to the health of native wildlife and plants, including endangered species.

Shepherd Barn Dendrochronology Study, Historic Northampton: \$2,300

CPA funds will be used to conduct a dendrochronology wood-dating study of the Shepherd Barn at historic Northampton, which will be used in preparation for a full restoration project of the structure.

Pulaski Park Renovation and Expansion, Northampton Department of Public Works: \$805,400

CPA funds will be used to continue design and construction of Pulaski Park. This phase includes construction of the Overlook Expansion that will create new park space to the rear of the existing park. The Committee recommends bonding for a portion of this project..

Thank you,

Brian Adams
Chair, City of Northampton Community Preservation Committee

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016

Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee

16.083

AN ORDER

To Use CPA Funds to restore two of the historic stained glass windows located in First Churches of Northampton

Ordered, that:

WHEREAS, First Churches of Northampton submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for restoration of 12 historic stained glass windows located in the sanctuary of the First Churches of Northampton;

WHEREAS, CPA funds will be used to restore an important historic resource that is valued by the community and the region, on which Mass Historic holds a permanent preservation restriction;

WHEREAS, the project will enable these important historic artifacts to remain in Northampton;

WHEREAS, in addition to being an important historic resource, First Churches provides valuable social services and meeting space to at least 27 different organizations and the community at large on a monthly basis;

WHEREAS, all work will be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2016 the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$213,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support the restoration of two of the stained glass windows; the Tiffany and Rose, that were included in the application.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$213,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to First Churches of Northampton for restoration of the Tiffany and Rose stained glass windows. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$6,870.72 is appropriated from the CPA Historic Preservation Reserve (account #2344930-359932) and \$206,129.28 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016

Upon the recommendation of The Community Preservation Committee

16.084

AN ORDER

To use CPA funds to add 22 acres to the Saw Mill Hills in Leeds

Ordered, that:

WHEREAS, the Northampton Conservation Commission and Northampton Office of Planning and Sustainability submitted a CPA application for the Saw Mill Hills to Water's Edge project. This will fund the purchase of a 22-acre parcel adjacent to and overlooking the Roberts Meadow Reservoir for permanent protection.

WHEREAS, the parcel serves an important wildlife connection that will preserve a natural link between the Saw Mill Hills Conservation Area/Roberts Hill and the Roberts Meadow Reservoir.

WHEREAS, the project meets the goals of the Sustainable Northampton Plan, Northampton Community Preservation Plan, and Open Space, Recreation and Multiuse Trail Plan to protect open space and provide for passive recreation.

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2016, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$72,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$72,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Northampton Conservation Commission and Northampton Office of Planning and Sustainability for the Saw Mill Hills to Water's Edge project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$72,000 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016

Upon the recommendation of The Community Preservation Committee

16.085
AN ORDER

To use CPA funds to allow the Academy of Music to restore a scenic curtain

Ordered, that:

WHEREAS, the Academy of Music submitted a CPA application for the Historic Curtain preservation project;

WHEREAS, the 1913 Maurice Tuttle curtain is the largest known historic scenic curtain on the east coast, and represents a scene from Northampton's history;

WHEREAS, restoration of the curtain will allow it to be viewed by visitors to the Academy during events and free historic tours;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2016, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$44,785 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$44,785 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Academy of Music for the Historic Curtain preservation project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$44,785 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016

Upon the recommendation of The Community Preservation Committee

16.086
AN ORDER

To Use CPA Funds toward the purchase price of a house in Northampton up to eight units of housing
& support service for unaccompanied homeless youth.

Ordered, that:

WHEREAS, Friends of Hampshire County Homeless Individuals submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for the Housing for Homeless Youth project.

WHEREAS, currently this population faces a gap in supportive housing services in Northampton and nearby despite being a high risk group.

WHEREAS, the Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness has declared unaccompanied homeless youth a priority in its regional plan.

WHEREAS, CPA funds will leverage up to \$475,000 of funds from other sources.

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2016, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend that \$275,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

WHEREAS, CPA funds will be used towards the purchase of the building, and operation will be turned over to an experienced service organization for management.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$275,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to Friends of Hampshire County Homeless Individuals for the Housing for Homeless Youth project for creation of 6 to 8 affordable housing units. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$150,000.10 is appropriated from the CPA Affordable Housing Reserve (account #2344930-359933) and \$124,999.90 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016

Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee

16.087
AN ORDER

To Provide CPA funds that will be used for fast action on time sensitive real estate opportunities

Ordered, that:

WHEREAS, the Northampton Conservation Commission submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for the Conservation Fund.

WHEREAS, the fund makes possible increased acquisition or protection of open space parcels in Northampton by supporting fast action on time-sensitive real estate opportunities.

WHEREAS, the project may leverage additional public and/or private funds.

WHEREAS, the project meets the goals of the Northampton Sustainability Plan for protection of open space and agricultural lands.

WHEREAS, the applicant has used these funds effectively in the past towards the protection of several hundred acres of open space, reflecting the goals established by the Community Preservation Committee.

WHEREAS, all land purchases will be reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission and the City Council.

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2016, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend \$30,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$30,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Northampton Conservation Fund. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$30,000 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016

Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee

16.088
AN ORDER

To use CPA funds to allow BBC to continue efforts to control & eliminate several different species of invasive plants that are damaging critical habitats essential to the health of native wildlife and plants, including endangered species

Ordered, that:

WHEREAS, the Broad Brook Coalition submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for continued removal of invasive plants within the Fitzgerald Lake Conservation Area.

WHEREAS, the main targets of this project are (1) Spotted and Brown Knapweeds on the dam and in Cooke's Pasture, (2) Glossy Buckthorn in Cooke's Pasture, and (3) Black Swallow-wort in Cooke's Pasture.

WHEREAS, the project's control and removal of invasive plants meets goals established by the Northampton Open Space Recreation and Multi-Use Trail Plan and Rediscovering Northampton, and will protect habitat areas of rare and endangered plant species.

WHEREAS, the applicant has used these funds effectively in the past.

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2016, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend \$12,800 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$12,800 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Fitzgerald Lake Invasive Plant Eradication Project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$12,800 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016

Upon the recommendation of The Community Preservation Committee

16.089
AN ORDER

To use funds to conduct a dendrochronology wood-dating study of the Shepherd Barn

Ordered, that:

WHEREAS, Historic Northampton, Inc. submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for continued work to restore, renovate and stabilize the Shepherd Barn at 66 Bridge St, and protect historic artifacts, and that application was revised to address a small portion of necessary documentation before the project can begin;

WHEREAS, CPA funds will be used to complete dendrochronolgy research and secure the barn in preparation for the full restoration project ;

WHEREAS, CPA funds will be used to help secure an important historic resource that is valued by the community and the region, on which the City holds a permanent preservation restriction;

WHEREAS, all work will be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2016 the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend that \$2,300 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$2,300 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to Historic Northampton, Inc. for dendrochronolgy and immediate stabilization work at the Shepherd Barn. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$2,300 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016

Upon the recommendation of The Community Preservation Committee

16.090

AN ORDER

To use CPA funds to continue design & construction of Pulaski Park

Ordered, that:

WHEREAS, the Northampton Department of Public Works submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for continued work toward renovation of Pulaski Park, specifically the Overlook Expansion and the area to the rear of the Academy of Music.

WHEREAS, Pulaski Park is an important downtown resource, and the project will create a vibrant downtown greenspace.

WHEREAS, the project meets the goals of the Sustainable Northampton Plan and the Open Space, Recreation and Multiuse Plans.

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works received extensive public input about the design of the Park, and the selected design reflects that process.

WHEREAS, the City Council and CPA in 2013, 2014 and 2015 granted \$1,898,500 in CPA funds to support the design and development of design plans and construction for the project, which broke ground in Fall, 2015.

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2016, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend that \$805,400 in CPA funds be used to support this phase of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$805,400 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Northampton Department of Public Works for additional funding for the Pulaski Park Renovation Project, for overlook expansion and area to the rear of the Academy. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$130,400 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930) and that the City Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow up to \$675,000, over 10 years, under G.L. c.44B, §11 or any other enabling authority, and the debt repayment is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016
Upon the recommendation of the Mayor

16.091
AN ORDER

To allow the City of Northampton's Tree Warden,
to accept gifts of tangible personal property with a fair market value of \$25,000 or less

Ordered, that:

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton recognizes the role that public shade trees play in reducing energy use, improving air quality, mitigating storm water, spawning retail activity, and enhancing quality of life;

WHEREAS, the public wishes to supplement the city's efforts by providing donations of trees and tree-related equipment and supplies;

WHEREAS, Massachusetts General Laws C. 44 s.53A1/2 provides that acceptance of gifts of tangible personal property requires a vote of the City Council and approval of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City to streamline the process by which gifts up to a certain value may be accepted and placed into service for the community;

Now Therefore Be It Ordered,

The City Council hereby authorizes the City of Northampton's Tree Warden, with the approval of the Mayor, to accept gifts of tangible personal property with a fair market value of \$25,000 or less from the federal government, a charitable foundation, a private corporation or similar statutory entity, individual, or from the commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof. The Tree Warden shall use such gifts for the restricted purpose provided by the donor or, if no restriction is attached to the gift, for such other purposes as the Tree Warden deems advisable.

City of Northampton
Massachusetts

In City Council May 19, 2016
Upon the recommendation of the Mayor

16.092

AN ORDER

To Rescind TIF previously granted to the Grantham Group

Ordered, that:

Whereas, on March 7, 2013, the City Council granted a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan to the Grantham Group for the assisted living project know as Christopher Heights;

Whereas, the vote authorized the Mayor to execute and implement a TIF agreement and that agreement was not executed by mutual agreement of the City and the Grantham Group;

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has requested that the city rescind its authorization for this project;

Therefore be it ordered, that the vote taken by the City Council on March 7, 2013 to grant a TIF to the Grantham Group is hereby rescinded.