



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

January 12, 2018

Ryan O'Donnell  
City Council President  
210 Main Street, Room 16  
Northampton, MA 01060

Re: Community Preservation Committee Recommendations for Funding

Chairman O'Donnell and City Councilors,

In Autumn 2017 the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) began reviewing project proposals submitted for CPA funding this round. After extensive review including applicant presentations, public comment sessions and deliberation, the CPC unanimously voted to recommend nine funding requests totaling \$738,877. Collectively, these projects will leverage millions from other funding sources, including state and federal grants, private contributions, and volunteer work.

The CPC encourages Councilors and the public to visit <http://archive.northamptonma.gov/WebLink/0/fol/572217/Row1.aspx> to view the full applications submitted for each project funded this round. 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](http://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:**

**Community Housing Supportive Services, Northampton Housing Partnership, \$80,465**

CPA funds will allow the Housing Partnership to continue to provide supportive services to families and individuals residing in the City's affordable housing. Services include assistance with navigating state benefits, financial counseling and payment plans, and help residents to maintain housing and avoid eviction.

**Jail Farm Agricultural Restoration, Office of Planning and Sustainability, \$3,000**

CPA funds will be utilized to restore the former Jail Farm on Ventures Field Road – abandoned when the jail moved from Union Street to the House of Corrections in 1984 – to active agricultural use. The three acre parcel is being surplussed to the City at no cost, but will need

work to make it usable for farming once again. This project was reviewed as part of the CPC's 'Small Grant' round to encourage small, discrete projects.

**Priority Open Spaces Acquisition, Northampton Conservation Commission, \$125,412**

CPA funds will help permanently protect 63 acres in five separate parcels in the Rocky Hill Greenway and Mineral Hills. The areas include opportunities for trail and wildlife connections, views, as well as remnants of an 18<sup>th</sup> century lead mine that is an important part of the area's cultural landscape. Two readings are requested to allow closings to occur; City Council approved all acquisitions in 2017.

**MassCentral Rail Trail Extension, Office of Planning and Sustainability, \$50,000**

CPA funds will be used as a match for a federal Recreational Trails Program grant for construction funding to fully extend the Leeds section of trail along the Mill River 1250 feet north to the Williamsburg Town line.

**Sargeant House Expansion, Valley CDC, \$300,000**

After an initial \$50,000 award to demonstrate local support for grant and tax credit applications, an additional award is being recommended for an expansion of 82 Bridge Street. The project will create needed single room occupancy units, as well as restore a historic structure in one of the gateways to downtown.

**Village Hill Apartments, The Community Builders, \$50,000**

An initial commitment of \$50,000 is being recommended to demonstrate local support for this project to create 35 units of income-restricted community housing at Village Hill as part of a 65-unit mixed income development.

**Conservation Fund, Northampton Conservation Commission: \$50,000**

CPA funds will make possible increased acquisition or protection of open space parcels in Northampton by supporting fast action on time-sensitive opportunities to protect our valuable open spaces. The Conservation Fund has been used successfully in the past to help facilitate the purchase of many key open space parcels totaling hundreds of acres.

**Garfield Avenue Small Home, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, \$20,000**

This project will allow Habitat for Humanity to construct a "Big Enough" house on a small lot on Garfield Avenue in Florence. This will increase the diversity of housing types available in the neighborhood and provide homeownership access for a low-income household.

**Glendale Road Zero Net Energy Homes, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, \$60,000**

CPA funds will help Habitat for Humanity build three zero-net energy possible homes for affordable homeownership. Part of a limited development project that also resulted in 50 acres being permanently protected, the homes will provide options for durable, energy efficient living on a common driveway with small footprints.

Thank you,

Brian Adams  
Chair, City of Northampton Community Preservation Committee