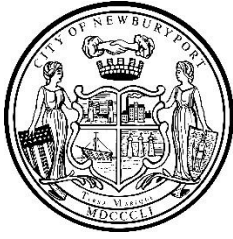


# CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



## IN CITY COUNCIL

**ORDERED:**

December 12, 2022

**THAT, the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Newburyport** accepts with gratitude a gift from The Mayor Gayden W. Morrill Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$110,000.00 to be expended in accordance with the foundation’s funding directive dated November 15, 2022. Said funds are accepted in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53A.

**FURTHER, THAT,** the following unspent prior-year funds totaling \$69,050.00, at the request of the foundation, are hereby reallocated for the purpose of purchasing and installing granite coping around Bartlet Mall Frog Pond:

<b>Org</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
29910006	58400	Atwood Park Interpretive Panels	\$1,050.00
29910014	58400	Cushing Park Improvements	\$15,000.00
29910019	58400	Irrigation Wells	\$53,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$69,050.00</b>

---

Councillor Sharif I. Zeid

**ROBERT D. MORRILL  
8396 SW SNAPDRAGON COURT  
STUART, FLORIDA 34997**

November 15, 2022

Hon. Sean R. Reardon, Mayor  
City of Newburyport  
60 Pleasant Street  
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

Re: Morrill Foundation Funding Directive

Dear Mr. Mayor,

This year was truly a year of transition with the election of a new Mayor and the firing of the Parks Director after 16 years of service under two previous administrations.

After the firing of the Parks Director on July 8, 2022 a personal meeting was requested with the Mayor. When that was not available, the Mayor called me on July 13 and again on July 18, 2022. When asked about the firing of the Parks Director, he stated that it had nothing to do with her work ethic or performance but was the result of his recommended parks reorganization plan.

During our phone conversations, I detailed the reason for my three month annual visit to Newburyport. As a Private Operating Foundation, it is essential to personally review projects that have been approved and to detail proposed projects for the upcoming year. Unfortunately, nothing was forthcoming until our scheduled September 2, 2022 meeting with the Mayor, his staff, and the Foundation trustees.

Mrs. Kimberly Turner presented the City's recommendations which included requesting that monies allocated to projects that had not materialized, ie. \$15,000.00 for Cushing Park given in 2018, be reallocated. The trustees supported that suggestion.

Mrs. Turner stated that the bidding process for the electric door at the Atkinson Common Maintenance Building had just gone out in late August. She felt that the \$10,000.00 from the 2021 directive might be excessive and would advise the trustees of any overage.

Mrs. Turner also mentioned a \$550.00 deficiency in funding the Garrison Garden Signage. Two points are worth noting: First, last year we had approved funding for the whole project, which was later determined not needed and second, in 2017 we had allocated \$1600.00 for a panel recognizing Mrs. Margaret Ford Atwood which never was designed. As a result, during the meeting the trustees authorized \$550.00 be immediately dispersed to cover the Garrison signage and the remaining \$1050.00 would be reallocated by the trustees.

Mrs. Turner also discussed the \$40,000.00 allocated last year for three Pickle Ball Courts. The City is now considering a Multi-Use Court and asked if the name change was acceptable. The trustees all agreed to the name change. As nothing has been formalized, the trustees ask that no funds be expensed until drawings have been sent to the trustees assuring that three pickle ball courts have been made available and a written confirmation letter from the pickle ball league stating that the courts are acceptable has been received by the trustees.

It is our understanding that funding has now been approved for the playground at the Bartlet Mall and that the City Council has approved the Community Preservation Commission's funding of close to \$2,800,000.00 to restore the water quality to Frog Pond. The Morrill Foundation has already approved and detailed funds for accessing Frog Pond from Auburn Street. The funds are to be used in conjunction with work on the playground project as they adjoin each other and equipment can be used for both projects.

It seems appropriate to now allocate the \$37,000.00 noted in the 2020 directive. Once the restoration of the Bartlet Mall Slope, beside the playground has been completed, the \$37,000.00 is to be used to continue the restoration of the slope along the High Street side of the Mall.

The trustees are all encouraged by the funding that has been made available for the Mall and have decided to allocate all the reallocated funds and the funds available for next year to the granite seating proposed for around the waters edge once the water quality has been restored in Frog Pond. That would include the \$1050.00 and the \$15,000.00 noted above, as well as the \$53,000.00 allocated in 2020 for wells and the \$110,000.00 which will be available in 2023. The total funding comes to \$179,050.00 for granite seating.

I know that the City Council will have to formally accept these funds at its December meeting. We ask that the Mayor's office provide a copy of this letter to the City Council prior to their scheduled meeting. After notification of their acceptance to all the trustees, with the original acceptance letter directed to the treasurer Mr. James Agrippa Morrill, a check will be issued for next year.

In the meantime, we hope that all in Newburyport will have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Blessed Christmas, and a safe, joyous and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Morrill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert D. Morrill

Cc: James Agrippa Morrill, James Astle Morrill, James Gayden Morrill, Mary Haslinger, Kimberly Turner, Ted Boretti, Ethan Manning, Jack Grady