

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED:

April 8, 2024

That, at the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, ORDR00355_05_09_2022 of the City Council amended on September 27, 2022 appropriating \$2,574,000 to pay costs of the Barlet Mall Frog Pond Improvements project is hereby rescinded.

Councilor Sharif I. Zeid

In City Council April 8, 2024:

Motion to collectively refer ORDR00551, ORDR00552, ORDR00553 to Budget & Finance, and ORDR00554, ORDR00555, ORDR00556, ORDR00557, ORDR00558 to Budget & Finance and COTW by Councilor Zeid, seconded by Councilor McCauley. Roll call vote, 10 yes, 1 absent, motion passes.



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
60 PLEASANT STREET • P.O. BOX 550
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
(978) 465-4400

NEWBURYPORT COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
(Bartlet Mall Frog Pond Improvements Project)

The Newburyport Community Preservation Committee recommends, consistent with the communication to the Committee from the Mayor dated February 21, 2024, that Order 355_05_09_2022 of City Council amended September 27, 2022 appropriating \$2,574,000 to pay costs of the Bartlet Mall Frog Pond Improvements project be rescinded.

Respectfully submitted by:

Community Preservation Committee Members

Michael Dissette, Chair
Andrea Weetman
Thomas O'Brien
Jamie Gagnon
Charles Griffin

Jane Healey, Vice Chair
Joe Teixeira
Jennifer Bluestein
Biff Bouse



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SEAN R. REARDON

60 PLEASANT STREET • P.O. BOX 550
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
(978) 465-4413 • (978) 465-4452 (FAX)
WWW.CITYOFNEWBURYPORT.COM

Mike Dissette
Chair, Community Preservation Committee
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

February 21, 2024

Dear Chair Dissette,

I would like to provide an update on the Bartlet Mall Restoration project. As you may know, on February 1 at 10 am we held the bid opening. While we were pleased to have received 4 bids, all of them were above the amount we had budgeted for the project. We had a held CPC bond of \$2.57M and the lowest bid came in at \$4.34M. We believe the pressures of the economy to have factored into this.

At this time, we are planning to hit pause on the project and release the CPC bond. We are also pulling our request for the Swan Fountain Restoration. We would like to hold on to the funds for the open CPC projects, in order to use them as leverage for fundraising and moving some smaller pieces of the project forward. Open CPC projects include Specimen Trees (\$7,724.47), Swan Fountain (\$125,931.20), and Walkway Improvements (\$11,573.08). I will continue to provide quarterly reports on each, and would like to formally ask for an extension for each of these projects.

Our permits for this project are good for 3 years, and we will use the next several months to seek alternative grants and private funding to bridge the gap, with the expectation to re-apply to the CPC, hopefully next cycle. I would like to respectfully request that the CPC hold some bonding capacity for this project, perhaps in the range of \$3-3.5M, to be discussed at a later date. We still believe the project design to be sound and look forward to carrying it through. A tremendous amount of time and energy went into this project and I'd like to personally thank our consultant team and all the champions of this project for all their hard work and dedication. I would also like to express my sincerest gratitude to the CPC for your support for this project over the years. I share your disappointment in this delay and look forward to the day when we can celebrate the success of the restoration of our City's original town common.

I look forward to continuing this conversation with you. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kim Turner, Manager of Special Projects

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

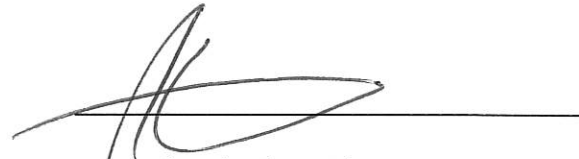


IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED:

May 9, 2022

THAT, upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, \$2,574,000 is appropriated, subject to a final plan being presented to the Council for approval, to pay costs of the Bartlet Mall Frog Pond Improvements project, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. To meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), M.G.L. c. 44B (the Community Preservation Act), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and that the Mayor and the Treasurer are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.




Councilor Sharif I. Zeid

In City Council May 9, 2022:

Motion to waive the rules to accept the late files and refer to Budget & Finance by Councillor Zeid, seconded by Councillor McCauley. Roll call vote. 11 yes. Motion passes.

In City Council September 27, 2022:

Motion to approve ORDR00354 Project 4 and ORDR00355 collectively by Councillor Zeid, seconded by Councillor Donahue. Roll call vote. 11 yes. Motion passes.

Approve: 

Sean R. Reardon, Mayor

Attest: 

Richard B. Jones, City Clerk

Date: 10/18/2022