To: Newburyport Planning Department, Newburyport Community Preservation Committee, et al.

Re: Funding for the Cushing House Museum Landscape Restoration Project (Phase 3)

The Newburyport Historical Commission wishes to convey its strong support for the proposal made by the Historical Society of Old Newbury (HSON) to be used for the final phase of landscape restoration and rehabilitation of the Cushing House's historic landscape. This work complements the work already funded to restore the cobbled courtyard, and will complete the restoration of the Cushing House grounds and lower garden. In addition to basic restoration work, improvements are planned that will improve accessibility to the paths, gardens and access to the Perkins Mint.

The Cushing House Museum (CHM) is currently under a preservation restriction (PR) between the Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC) and the Historical Society of Old Newbury. As this work is considered “major” in nature, HSON has provided the MHC with a copy of its plans. The plans will be reviewed again before any work is undertaken to ensure that preservation requirements are met.

The museum’s property at High and Fruit streets is unique, in that not only are the buildings unusually well preserved, but the grounds of the property are as well. These areas provide important context for the Cushing House and have considerable historical and educational value. Recently, the grounds have become even more important as an outdoor space that may be used for functions when the museum must be closed to visitors due to the present pandemic. There is no question that this cultural resource in the heart of Newburyport is deserving of the care, maintenance and preservation that it receives under the auspices of the HSON.

Therefore, the NHC fully supports this project and the request for CPA funds needed to accomplish it.

Sincerely,

Glenn Richards, Chair

Newburyport Historical Commission