

Dianne Boisvert

From: Katelyn E. Sullivan
Sent: April 13, 2021 8:32 AM
To: Dianne Boisvert
Subject: FW: [Ext]Letter of support for the Nbpt Parks Dept. CPC applications (Frog Pond)

Can you please post the below email to the two Parks Frog Pond CPC applications?

8 April, 2021
To: Newburyport Community Preservation Committee
Re: Funding for the Newburyport Parks Dept. Bartlet Mall/Frog Pond Improvements Projects

Dear Chairman Dissette and Community Preservation Committee Members,

The Newburyport Historical Commission wishes to convey its strong support for the two proposals made by the Newburyport Parks Department to restore the 'Swan Fountain' in the Frog Pond, and to begin work on a multi-part project to improve the water quality of the Frog Pond.

I think few will question the extent to which Bartlet Mall and the Frog Pond represent one of Newburyport's iconic locations. But not only is the pond and its fountain a notable landmark, the entire mall area is a treasured cultural and recreational resource to our city - a very popular location for outdoor activities.

As the Parks Dept. has stated, the Frog Pond has great historical significance, being noted on even the oldest maps and records of the area. From a historical perspective, the improvements and maintenance of its water quality is a critical task that must be undertaken as part of our obligation as stewards of this important historic feature.

Although the current Swan Fountain is a replacement of the original fountain, the existence of a fountain in the pond is certainly a historic and familiar feature. We feel that the fountain deserves restoration not only as a significant historic structure, but also because of the important role it plays in maintaining the water quality of the pond. It is also a key contributor to the overall Bartlet Mall park - an accent and focal point along with the historic courthouse, the tree-lined paths, and the pond itself.

The Historical Commission hopes that the Parks Department is able to execute these projects, and that the Community Preservation Commission will look favorably upon their application for CPC funds to do so,

Sincerely,

Glenn Richards, Chair
Newburyport Historical Commission