**Demonstration that the proposed project will represent a public benefit**

In 1984, the City created a list of historic structures located within the Newburyport Historic District as part of the National Register of Historic Places. This district encompasses thousands of structures, many of which are historic. However this list does not capture all potentially “contributing” properties which presents a problem because being on this list is what makes these structures eligible for protection within the City’s local Demolition Control Overlay District (DCOD) and Downtown Overlay District (DOD), which combined covers the entire Newburyport Historic District.

In 2013, the Newburyport City Council passed the DCOD and DOD Ordinances, both of which were intended to provide a significant measure of protection for the City’s historic architectural assets, after failing to secure support for a large Local Historic District (LHD). The DOD provides for advisory review by the Newburyport Historic Commission (NHC) on exterior changes (including demolition) to the Planning Board which then acts as Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) under the Newburyport Zoning Ordinance. The area covered by the DOD is the core Federal period commercial center of the City and is centrally located within the National Register District (NRD).

The DCOD provides for advisory review by the NHC on the demolition (partial or whole) of historic structures to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) which then acts as Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) under the Newburyport Zoning Ordinance and determines whether demolition should be allowed for any given structure. The area covered by the DCOD is the remainder of the National Register District.

Since passing the DOD and DCOD Ordinances creating these regulated areas, the City has come to realize that there are gaps in the list of protected (“contributing”) historic structures and that virtually no accessory buildings are included in it. Updating this inventory and including accessory structures will help protect the historic fabric of the community through additional Form B inventories which will, in turn, allow additional “contributing” structures to qualify for protection under the DOD and DCOD regulations.

**Identification of the funding match source**

The City was awarded a $15,000 CPA grant in 2017 to work on a survey of historic structures. Due to staffing issues and other priorities, and determining that $15,000 was not enough funding to cover the cost of a consultant to do this work, this project never got underway. We are now planning to use these grant funds as a match for this grant to enable the City to hire a consultant to work on updating the list of historic structures including accessory buildings. It is understood that the City will expend the funds to hire a consultant and will be reimbursed by MHC upon completion of the work.

**Demonstration of financial need**

Without the MHC providing grant funds to hire a consultant for this effort, it is not possible for us to complete this work. Our planning department is staffed with only three planners who are each working on several projects and staffing various boards and commissions without the time necessary to complete this project. The City’s operational budget does not include funding for a consultant for this purpose. Additionally, expertise in historic property surveys is necessary to ensure the best possible deliverables (new Form Bs, associated research and background documentation, etc.).

**Demonstration that the proposed activity can be completed within the time frame**

This project can be completed within the one year grant period, including the time to advertise for and hire a consultant.

Newburyport has never received an MHC grant for this purpose.