

Town
HISTORIAN



TOWN OF WATERFORD
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385
860-442-0553

SOCIAL SERVICES GRANT FUNDING REQUEST

ORGANIZATION NAME:	Municipal Historian
REQUEST DATE (FISCAL YEAR):	FY - 2024
REQUESTED AMOUNT:	\$800.00

BENEFIT STATEMENT (Describe how these funds will be used)

Conferences, workshops, reimbursable expenses, printing,
copies, books, supplies, memberships, misc.

Per Town of Waterford Budget Guidelines: please attach a certified audit report of all funds appropriated during the last completed fiscal year to your funding request.

DECLARATION

I, the requester, understand that I am requesting public funds from the Town of Waterford. I declare that this request does not pose any potential conflict with the Town of Waterford and I will provide any documentation requested by the Town of Waterford to authorize funding this request or review the appropriateness of the request.

Signature

Date _____

12/8/22

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Robert M. Nye
Municipal Historian
DATE: December 9, 2022

RE: Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operating Budget

The Operating Budget for FY July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 for the Municipal Historian in the amount of \$800.00 is herewith attached.

Thank you for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Nye

MUNICIPAL HISTORIAN
Operating Budget FY 2023-24

Social Service Grants/Misc 10120

LI 52646 (Municipal Historian)

\$800.00

Conferences, workshops
Reimbursable expenses (mileage,
out-of-pocket exp., etc.)
Printing, copies
Books, supplies
Memberships

FY'22 Budget	FY'22 Actual	FY'21 Budget	FY'21 Actual	FY'20 Budget	FY'20 Actual	FY'19 Budget	FY'19 Actual
\$800	\$610	\$800	\$730	\$800	\$776	\$800	\$799

06/30/2022

FOR 2022 13

JOURNAL DETAIL 2022 1 TO 2022 13

ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANS/ADJSMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	% USED

10120 SOCIAL SERVICE GRANTS						

52646 TOWN HISTORIAN						

10120 52646	TOWN HISTORIAN	800.00	610.13	0.00	189.87	76.3%
2022/01/000310	07/23/2021 API	35.00 VND	000121 IN ROBERT NYE RENEWAL F	NEW LONDON CTY HISTO	ROBERT NYE MEM	305252
2022/01/000310	07/23/2021 API	31.00 VND	002481 IN OHJ0157357021 MEMBR	TOWN HISTORIAN MBR	ROBERT NYE MEM	305286
2022/01/000377	07/30/2021 API	25.00 VND	000726 IN MEMBER R NYE	WATERFORD HISTORICAL	ROBERT NYE MEM	305366
2022/01/000438	07/01/2021 BUC	800.00 REF	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2022			
2022/02/000218	08/27/2021 API	25.00 VND	002161 IN IND MBR R NYE RENEWA	FRIENDS OF THE OFFIC	ROBERT M NYE I	305674
2022/03/000056	09/17/2021 API	25.00 VND	000838 IN R M NYE RENEWAL MEMB	NEW LONDON LANDMARKS	ROBERT M NYE R	305905
2022/04/000239	10/29/2021 API	20.00 VND	00-970 IN MEMBERSHIP R NYE	THE INDIAN & COLONIA	ROBERT NYE REN	306546
2022/06/000109	12/10/2021 API	74.00 VND	000475 IN SEAPORT 11/26/21	ROBERT M NYE	REIMB ANNUAL 2	307157
2022/06/000109	12/10/2021 API	60.00 VND	000475 IN FL GRISWOLD 11/26/21	ROBERT M NYE	ANNUAL MEMB RE	307157
2022/06/000179	12/23/2021 API	40.00 VND	00-756 IN 2022 IND. MEMBERSHIP	CONNECTICUT LANDMARK	ROBERT NYE	307231
2022/06/000180	12/23/2021 API	34.03 VND	000475 IN wreath from Scott's	ROBERT M NYE	wreath for Nev	307317
2022/09/000012	03/04/2022 API	50.00 VND	000475 IN ASSOC CT HIST 2022	ROBERT M NYE	CT HISTORICAL	308146
2022/09/000134	03/18/2022 API	35.00 VND	000475 IN WFD LAND TRUST 2022	ROBERT M NYE	022822 MEMBERS	308333
2022/09/000134	03/18/2022 API	35.00 VND	000475 IN 031822 HARKNESS	ROBERT M NYE	030222 MEMB RE	308333
2022/10/000007	04/01/2022 API	1.10 REF	GB-1 COLOR COPY CHARGES 033122	ROBERT M NYE	RENEW INDIVIDU	308477
2022/11/000054	05/09/2022 GEN	30.00 VND	000068 IN ROBERT NYE 2022	NATIONAL TRUST FOR H	ANNUAL MEMBERS	308960
2022/11/000090	05/13/2022 API	30.00 VND	000475 IN 2022 NL COUNTY	ROBERT M NYE	REIMBURSE FOR	308982
2022/12/000076	06/10/2022 API	25.00 VND	000475 IN 060222 CT EXPLORED	ROBERT M NYE	22-23 1 YEAR M	309444

GRAND TOTAL

800.00

0.00

800.00

610.13

0.00

189.87

76.3%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Ginny Bielucki **



MUNICIPAL HISTORIAN
HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION
FY 2021-2022

The MUNICIPAL HISTORIAN is an agent of the town, appointed by the board of selectmen for a term of three years. The current historian was appointed in 1993. There is no job description. The 1987 enabling legislation simply allowed for municipalities to "[p]rovide for the appointment of a municipal historian. . ." What municipal historians statewide do is determined mostly by personal inclinations and local situations.

The historian was instrumental in the establishment of the HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION (HPC) in 1999. The HPC qualified the town for designation as a Certified Local Government (CLG), a program designed to promote the preservation of historic and cultural resources in partnership with the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The town has subsequently benefited from technical assistance and grant funding, amounting to some \$70,000 over the years, allowing Waterford to participate in federal and state historic preservation programs, including National Register nominations and historic structure assessments.

The HPC's challenge is summarized in its mission (Ch. 2.86, Code of Ordinances):

In order to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the Town of Waterford, the purpose of [the Historic Properties Commission] shall be the preservation and protection of buildings, archaeological sites, landscapes, and places of historic and cultural significance and their settings in Waterford, Connecticut, recognizing such as landmarks in the history of the town, state or nation.

In the twenty-plus years since its establishment, the HPC has worked closely with the historian. Listings in the National Register of Historic Places include the districts in Quaker Hill, Graniteville, the Oswegatchie Colony, and the Hartford Colony, as well as the individual listing of the Walnut Grove Farm (former Hammond Estate). Listings in the State Register include the 1923 Cohanzie School and the Secchiaroli Barn. Additional National Register listings include the Jordan Village District, Eolia (Harkness Estate), and the Seaside Sanatorium.

On October 15, National Register coordinator Jennifer Scofield hosted a meeting at the library relative to the status of the proposed Oil Mill district. On December 7, the State Review Board approved the nomination pending minor edits which did not affect listing in the State Register. Listing in the National Register is anticipated in FY'23. An argument from the developer and supported by the town to exclude the industrially-zoned parcel at 21 Gurley Road (site of the former town poor farm) was deemed irrelevant.

Though the HPC and the historian continue to advocate and/or support projects/issues consistent with their mission, there remains real concern regarding the condition of the several town-owned buildings. Time is running out for both the Cohanzie School and the Nevins Tenant Cottage. The town approved \$100,000 for the latter in the FY'22 budget and allotted another \$100,000 from ARP funds. In addition, approximately \$20,000 has been collected in donations. Add a matching \$200,000 Historic Restoration Grant and it is likely the cottage could be structurally stabilized and the exterior completely rehabilitated. Meanwhile time continues to run out for the Secchiaroli barn. It is, in fact - and has been for several years - a town liability. A fourth town-owned building, the Jordan Park House (formerly the town's first purpose-built library, 1928), is in urgent need of repairs. An established "historic property" and contributing property to the Jordan Village National Register Historic District, a long-term maintenance program must be set in place. Repairs have been delayed for far too long. Further delays amount to nothing short of demolition by neglect. Chairman John O'Neill and Municipal Historian Robert Nye met with First Selectman Rob Brule on March 9 to discuss these very issues. All agreed that funds must be included in the Capital Plan each and every year for maintenance.

At the Library on May 24, during National Historic Preservation month, R. Nye, with librarian Jill Adams' assistance, presented "Town-owned Historic Buildings: Taking Stock" at the Library. In addition to the Cohanzie School, Nevins Cottage, Secchiaroli Barn, and Park House, buildings at Walnut Grove (former Hammond Estate), site of the Eugene O'Neill Memorial Theater, and the 1936 Hall of Records, were also discussed at length. J. O'Neill is a member of the ad hoc committee selecting a firm to determine the specifications and draw up bid documents for roof and related repairs to the Hammond mansion.

Issues related to the town's neglected/abandoned cemeteries have been widely discussed but remain largely unaddressed. Nonetheless E. Olynciw has made progress with her research for a book, and P. Crotty has contributed to the "Find A Grave" website and continues to singlehandedly maintain the Durfey Hill, Gorton and Church & Williams Cemeteries. He also anticipates applying for state funding for a much-needed fence for the Gorton Cemetery.

Legal action regarding violation of the delay of demolition ordinance at 151 Oswegatchie Road in FY'19 was never initiated. This is unacceptable. An enforcement procedure must be made clear.

A number of ongoing projects and concerns remain on the table, action stalled in some cases due to the pandemic. Looking ahead to FY'23, the HPC could consider collaboration with the Historical Society as well as the Land Trust to explore common heritage themes relate to history, conservation and preservation. There is also a need for a discussion regarding an historic cemetery association, separate from HPC and officially recognized by the town to assume responsibility for neglected burial sites, among them Gorton, Durfey Hill and Church & Williams. In addition, the HPC could benefit with an increased on-line presence. Worthy of HPC agenda consideration are the nomination of the Hall of Records to the State Register; re-installation of the Jordan fishway marker and repair of the fishway itself; updating the 1996-67 Historic/Architectural Survey; and monitoring Seaside Park and Friends of Seaside developments. HPC continues to support Save the River - Save the Hills, Connecticut Preservation (formerly Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation), and the Hartford-based lobbying group Preservation Action.

There remains a critical need to rally public support for the HPC mission. Fortunately the 2022-23 Plan of Preservation, Conservation and Development offers the HPC an opportunity to participate in discussions relative to the town's commitment to providing storage for historical archives, contracting a

third-party historic architect to advise relative to maintenance of town-owned historic buildings, taking some responsibility for neglected/abandoned cemeteries, designating Jordan Village a "village district", and supporting the Town Center Project connecting public spaces among other issues.

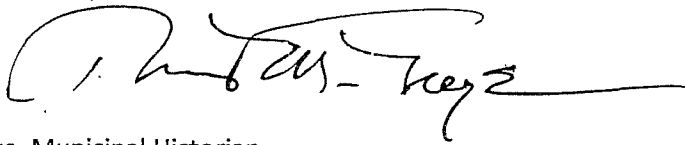
At the 2021 Annual Meeting in November, HPC officers elected were John O'Neill, Chairman; Patrick Crotty, Vice-Chair; Secretary, Debra Walters; and Treasurer, Robert Nye (Municipal Historian). Rounding out the membership are Vivian Brooks (Assistant Municipal Historian), Eileen Olynciw and Mark Olynciw. There remains an alternate vacancy.

Both historians R. Nye and V. Brooks continue to field historical and genealogical inquiries directly from individuals as well as through the town clerk's office, the Historical Society and the Library. The Historic Properties Commission and the Municipal Historian serve the entire Town of Waterford and are, in turn, supported by the town pursuant to state statute and town ordinance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John J. O'Neill, Jr.". To the right of the signature is a small, handwritten "R.M.N.".

John J. O'Neill, Jr., Chairman, Historic Properties Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert M. Nye".

Robert M. Nye, Municipal Historian