

**HISTORICAL
PROPERTIES
COMMISSION**



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

SOCIAL SERVICES GRANT FUNDING REQUEST

ORGANIZATION NAME: Historic Properties Commission
REQUEST DATE (FISCAL YEAR): FY -2024
REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$400.00

BENEFIT STATEMENT (Describe how these funds will be used)

Postage, copies, memberships, preservation outreach/programs, workshops/
seminars, grant application fees, minor cemetery maintenance, expenses, 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

John J. DiNella Jr.

Date

12/8/22

E.M.N.

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



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

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: John J. O'Neill, Jr.
Chairman, Historic Properties Commission
DATE: December 9, 2022

RE: Fiscal Year 2022-23 Operating Budget
LI 10120-52635

The Operating Budget for FY July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for the Historic Properties Commission in the amount of \$400.00 is herewith attached for your review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. O'Neill, Jr.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION
Operating Budget FY 2023-24

Social Service Grants/Misc 10120

LI 52635 (Historic Properties Commission)

\$400.00

Postage
Membership, CT Trust
Preservation outreach/programs
Workshops/seminars
Grant application costs
Minor cemetery maintenance expenses
Misc.

FY'22 Budget	FY'22 Actual	FY'21 Budget	FY'21 Actual	FY'20 Budget	FY'20 Actual	FY'19 Budget	FY'19 Actual
\$400	\$115	\$400	\$158	\$400	\$158	\$400	\$355

Historic Properties Commission Donations Fund Balance FY'22:

\$3,307.00

Expenses associated with the cost of speakers, programs, activities, projects, matches for grants, publishing costs, etc., expenses above and beyond and/or in addition to operating costs, cemetery maintenance/repairs, equipment, misc.

Nevins Cottage Donations Balance FY'22

\$9,394.00

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

52635 HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMM.

10120 52635 400.00 HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMM. 0.00 400.00 114.57 0.00 285.43 28.6%

2022/01/000438	07/01/2021	400.00	REF	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2022				
2022/01/000485	07/31/2021	9.57	REF	JULY 2021 METERED MAIL				
2022/02/000294	08/31/2021	2.55	REF	METERED MAIL AUGUST 2021				
2022/03/000056	09/17/2021	75.00	VND	IN mbr John J O'Neill m CT TRUST FOR HISTORI membership for				305860
2022/03/000284	09/30/2021	3.38	REF	SEPT 2021 METERED MAIL				
2022/04/000293	10/31/2021	0.53	REF	OCT21 METERED MAIL				
2022/04/000306	10/31/2021	0.25	REF	COLOR COPY CHARGES 093021				
2022/05/000247	11/30/2021	2.65	REF	NOV21 METERED MAIL				
2022/05/000249	11/30/2021	0.05	REF	COLOR COPY CHARGES 103121				
2022/06/000280	12/31/2021	7.66	REF	DEC 21 METERED MAIL				
2022/07/000257	01/31/2022	0.05	REF	COLOR COPY CHARGES 113021				
2022/08/000194	02/28/2022	1.59	REF	JAN22 METERED MAIL				
2022/08/000234	02/28/2022	0.10	REF	COLOR COPY CHARGES 013122				
2022/09/000294	03/31/2022	1.59	REF	FEB22 METERED MAIL				
2022/09/000303	03/31/2022	0.53	REF	MAR 22 METERED MAIL				
2022/10/000315	04/30/2022	2.60	REF	COLOR COPY CHARGES 022822				
2022/11/000228	05/31/2022	2.92	REF	APR22 METERED MAIL				
2022/12/000268	06/30/2022	0.53	REF	MAY 22 METERED MAIL				
		3.02	REF	JUNE 22 METERED MAIL				

GRAND TOTAL 400.00 0.00 400.00 114.57 0.00 285.43 28.6%

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

FUND: 243 HISTORIC PROPERTIES DONATIONS

			NET CHANGE FOR PERIOD	ACCOUNT BALANCE
ASSETS				
243	14101	DF GENERAL FUND	.00	12,701.66
	TOTAL ASSETS		.00	12,701.66
FUND BALANCE				
243	31510	FUND BALANCE	.00	-12,701.66
	TOTAL FUND BALANCE		.00	-12,701.66
	TOTAL LIABILITIES + FUND BALANCE		.00	-12,701.66

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

10/31/22

FOR 2023 04

JOURNAL DETAIL 2023 4 TO 2023 4

ORIGINAL APPROP	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	MTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	% USED
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10120 SOCIAL SERVICE GRANTS

52635 HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMM.

10120 52635

400.00 HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMM.

5.53

1.62

0.00

394.47

1.4%

2023/04/000230 10/31/2022 GEN

1.62 REF

OCT 22 METERED MAIL

TOTAL EXPENSES

400.00

400.00

5.53

1.62

0.00

394.47

GRAND TOTAL

400.00

5.53

1.62

0.00

394.47

1.4%

** 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.

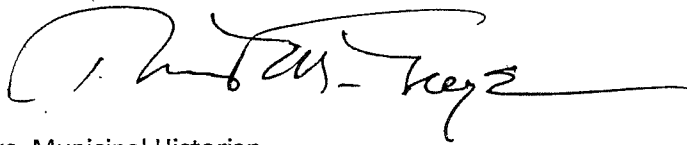
At the 2021 Annual Meeting in November, HPC officers elected were John O'Neill, Chairman; Patrick Crotty, Vice-Chair; Secretary, Debra Walters; and Treasurer, Robert Nye (Municipal Historian). Rounding out the membership are Vivian Brooks (Assistant Municipal Historian), Eileen Olynciw and Mark Olynciw.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