

FY22
BUDGET REQUEST

**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 2022

REQUESTED AMOUNT:

\$400.

BENEFIT STATEMENT (Describe how these funds will be used)

POSTAGE, COPIES, MEMBERSHIP (CT TRUST),
PRESERVATION OUTREACH/PROGRAMS,
WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS, GRANT APPLICATION
FEE'S, MINOR CEMETERY MAINTENANCE
EXPENSES, NISC.

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

Robert M. Nye
ROBERT M. NYE
HAC TREASURER
FOR CHRM. JOHN O'NEILL

Date

12/2/20

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 2, 2020

RE: Fiscal Year 2021-22 Operating Budget
LI 10120-52635

The Operating Budget for FY July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 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.
R.M.W.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION
Operating Budget FY 2021-22

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'20 Budget	FY'20 Actual	FY'19 Budget	FY'19 Actual	FY'18 Budget	FY'18 Actual	FY'17 Budget	FY'17 Actual
\$400	\$158	\$400	\$355	\$400	\$368	\$400	\$171

Historic Properties Commission Donations Fund Balance FY'20:

\$1,314.00

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.

06/30/20

FOR 2020 13

JOURNAL DETAIL 2020 1 TO 2020 13

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

52635 HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMM.

10120 52635 HISTORIC PROPERTIES CO	400	400	157.66	.00	.00	242.34	39.4%
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2020/01/000393 07/01/2019 BUC	400.00 REF						
2020/01/000443 07/31/2019 GEN	8.60 REF MAIL						
2020/01/000463 07/31/2019 GEN	.21 REF GB69						
2020/02/000222 08/31/2019 GEN	.49 REF GB63						
2020/03/000212 09/30/2019 GEN	7.90 REF						
2020/03/000221 09/30/2019 GEN	.84 REF GB53						
2020/04/000180 10/31/2019 GEN	2.17 REF GB43						
2020/05/000166 11/30/2019 GEN	15.30 REF						
2020/06/000175 12/31/2019 GEN	7.35 REF GB51						
2020/06/000196 12/31/2019 GEN	2.00 REF						
2020/07/000200 01/31/2020 GEN	6.30 REF						
2020/08/000202 02/29/2020 GEN	.50 REF						
2020/09/000215 03/31/2020 GEN	6.00 REF						
2020/12/000027 06/05/2020 API	100.00 VND	001462 IN 2020 MEMBERSHIP NYE	CT PRESERVATION ACTI	ROBERT M NYE FRIEN		18550	

TOTAL EXPENSES	400	400	157.66	.00	.00	242.34	
GRAND TOTAL	400	400	157.66	.00	.00	242.34	39.4%

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

06/30/20

FOR 2020 13

JOURNAL DETAIL 2020 1 TO 2020 13

	ORIGINAL APPROP	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	MTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
24320 DONATIONS HISTORIC PROPERTIES							
52030 PROFESSIONAL FEES							
24320 52030 PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0	850.00	.00	.00	-850.00	100.0%*
2020/03/000145 09/23/2019 API	850.00 VND	002212 IN 10860		SHARON E HERTZLER	PLAQUE:	ROGERS FA	15040
53020 OTHER SUPPLIES							
24320 53020 OTHER SUPPLIES HPC FUN	0	0	463.94	.00	.00	-463.94	100.0%*
2020/02/000192 08/26/2019 API	401.42 VND	000184 IN 108577		CASH TRUE VALDE HM C	HISTORIC PROPERTIE		14649
2020/09/000089 03/20/2020 API	62.52 VND	000475 IN REIMB CHAIN, BAR COS ROBERT M NYE			CHAIN SAW BAR AND		17388
TOTAL EXPENSES	0	0	1,313.94	.00	.00	-1,313.94	
GRAND TOTAL	0	0	1,313.94	.00	.00	-1,313.94	100.0%

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

12/01/2020

FOR 2021 06

JOURNAL DETAIL 2021 1 TO 2021 6

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

52635 HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMM.

10120 52635 HISTORIC PROPERTIES CO

2021/01/000406 07/31/2020 GEN	1.70 REF JULY20	400	400	137.45	.00	.00	262.55	34.4%
2021/01/000422 07/01/2020 BUC	400.00 REF							
2021/02/000195 08/20/2020 API	75.00 VND 002008 IN WATERFORD HIST. PROP CT TRUST FOR HISTORI NON PROFIT MUNICIPAL							300678
2021/02/000232 08/31/2020 GEN	4.30 REF							
2021/03/000220 09/30/2020 GCR	4.30 REF MAIL							
2021/04/000081 10/13/2020 API	50.00 VND 000731 IN RENEWAL R NYE							
2021/04/000234 10/31/2020 GEN	2.15 REF POSTAG							301438

TOTAL EXPENSES	400	400	137.45	.00	.00	262.55	34.4%
GRAND TOTAL	400	400	137.45	.00	.00	262.55	34.4%

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

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



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

MUNICIPAL HISTORIAN
HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION
FY 2019-20

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.

Among other accomplishments the historian was instrumental in the establishment of the HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION 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 \$60,000 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 established an enviable record working in concert with the historian. Listings in the National Register of Historic Places include districts in Quaker Hill, Graniteville, the Oswegatchie Colony, and the Hartford Colony, as well as the 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 Historic District, Eolia (Harkness Estate), and the Seaside Sanatorium). The HPC and the historian continue to advocate and/or support projects/issues consistent with their mission.

In FY'18 the proposed Oil Mill National Register District nomination was expanded to include Oil Mill Road south from Gurley Road to Boston Post Road as directed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). After multiple delays, including consultant health issues, the anticipated listing to the National Register is not expected until summer, 2021.

Both the historian and the commission continued to advocate for adaptive use of the 1923 Cohanzie School building, which is listed in the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places. In October, however, the Planning & Zoning Commission turned down an affordable housing proposal. Before an unruly crowd at the public hearing the municipal historian was the only one to speak in favor. Meanwhile time is running out if the school is to be saved.

The town-owned, ca. 1890 Nevins Tenant Cottage, an established "historic property" and important landmark within the Civic Triangle, continues to deteriorate. The Education Standing Committee of the RTM agreed to support the expenditure of \$22,500 from designated capital to fund a structural assessment by GNCB Consulting Engineers which could help determine a use for the building. The commission unanimously supports its rehabilitation whether or not use is determined first. The cottage is recognized as an important part of the town center/Jordan Village streetscape. According to the town's Plan of Preservation, Conservation and Development, historic resources like the Nevins Cottage "provide a direct connection to the history and 'sense of place'" . . . and "enrich our visual and emotional attachment to the community. . . ."

The town-owned, 1923 Secchiaroli Barn suffers from demolition by neglect as well. Without a new roof the building cannot long survive. Listed in the Connecticut Register of Historic Places, the town has no plans for its adaptive reuse.

Progress continues with documentation of "forgotten burial grounds". Eileen Olynciw's inventory, a work-in-progress, includes maps, photographs, genealogical information and related sources. In October Patrick Crotty and R. Nye mounted the Rogers burying ground plaque on the boulder that was placed there a century ago for that purpose on the former Mamacock Farm, now the property of Connecticut College. Bert Monton prepared the surface of the stone where the plaque would be installed. Brian Rogers, former CT College librarian and direct descendent of John Rogers, participated in the planning of the project and contributed \$100 toward the cost of the plaque which was cast by the Mystic Foundry. Total cost: \$800. Acting director of the Arboretum, Maggie Redfern, lent her support of the project on behalf of the college. P. Crotty and R. Nye also reset the elaborate Rogers memorial stone. Meanwhile, P. Crotty continued extensive clearing and maintenance of the Morgan, Rogers, Gorton, Church & Williams, and Durfey Hill cemeteries. He also donated two volumes of his stunning photographs of Waterford cemeteries to the Library. In June former State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni flagged areas of "disturbance" at the Durfey Hill Cemetery per Deb Surabian's GPR report from a year ago. A few test pits were not encouraging. Further testing may reveal unmarked burials, perhaps Durfey slaves.

R. Nye volunteered to oversee the roof replacement of the Historical Society's schoolhouse by Pawcatuck Roofing, completed in July, 2019. He also met with maintenance coordinator Wayne Fraser regarding long-deferred maintenance and the urgent need for repairs of the Jordan Park house, an "established historic property". Director of Planning & Development Abby Piersall agreed to include funding in the FY'22 capital plan, the start of a planned annual maintenance program for the building. The demolition of 151 Oswegatchie Road, a contributing property to the Oswegatchie Colony National Register Historic District, has prompted legal action by the town.

In addition to ongoing projects and concerns, the commission in FY'22 should consider collaboration with the Historical Society as well as the Land Trust to explore common heritage themes related to history, conservation and preservation. There are also a number of ongoing issues requiring consideration and/or action, some of which have been tabled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Among

them are the formation of a historic cemetery association. Chairman John O'Neill has emphasized the need for an organization entirely separate from the commission and officially recognized by the town to assume responsibility for neglected cemeteries, primarily Gorton, Durfey Hill, and Church & Williams. Photos of the three were included in a presentation to the newly-elected Board of Selectmen in December in an effort to raise their awareness of the problem and to remind them that the town has to assume some responsibility for their care. At the same time the commission must generate public interest in the town's neglected burying grounds. A "clean-up" was scheduled in April of the Church & Williams Cemetery, but unfortunately was cancelled because of the pandemic. Rescheduling is a priority for FY'22. A hopeful outcome could well be the formation of an association, perhaps an historic cemetery trust fund, and installation of signage identifying cemeteries. Also, the relationship established by Chrm O'Neill with the East Lyme Cemetery Association should be fostered.

Additional goals for the HPC in FY'22, some that are ongoing, include an increased on-line presence; re-installation of the Jordan fishway marker; nomination of the Hall of Records to the State Register; additional nominations to the National Register; updating the 1996-97 Historic/Architectural Survey; exploring alternatives to the town's policy (by default) of demolition by neglect of its historic buildings (of immediate concern is the fate of the historic Nevins Tenant Cottage); bringing attention to the deferred maintenance of the extant buildings at the Eugene O'Neill Memorial Theater Center, especially the Aida White Mansion, the Hammond Mansion, and the barn theater; and monitoring Seaside Park and Friends of Seaside developments. Also, the commission encourages the Planning & Zoning Commission to complete the application of village district regulations to historic Jordan Village. And finally, the HPC continues to support Preservation Action at the state capitol in Hartford, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, and Save the River – Save the Hills.

At the 2019 Annual Meeting, HPC officers elected were John O'Neill, Chairman; Eileen Olynciw, Vice-chairman; Corresponding Secretary, Debra Walters; and Recording Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Nye. Rounding out membership are Vivian Brooks (Assistant Municipal Historian), Mark Olynciw, and Patrick Crotty.

All the while both Municipal Historian R. Nye and Assistant Municipal Historian Vivian Brooks continue to field historical and genealogical inquiries directly from individuals and through the town clerk's office and the Historical Society.

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,

Robert M. Nye, Municipal Historian
John J. O'Neill, Jr., HPC Chairman