



# TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Community Preservation Committee

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## FY2025 APPLICATION

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT  
FUNDING APPLICATION

The Community Preservation Act provides funding for three core community concerns:

- Acquisition and preservation of open space/recreation
- Creation and support of community housing

<b>DATE SUBMITTED:</b> October 24, 2024
<b>NAME OF PROJECT:</b> Wachusett Aqueduct Northborough Historic Marker
<b>NAME OF APPLICANT:</b> Robert Licht, Chair, Northborough Historical Commission
<b>CONTACT ADDRESS:</b> 48 Emerson Road, Northborough
<b>CONTACT TELEPHONE:</b> 508-981-3891
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<b>SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:</b> Northborough Historical Commission
<b>CPA CATEGORY:</b> OPEN SPACE/RECREATION HOUSING <u>HISTORIC</u>
<b>LOCATION:</b> <u>TOWN LAND</u> SCHOOL LAND PRIVATE LAND
<b>AMOUNT OF CPA FUNDS REQUESTED:</b> \$4,729
<b>OTHER FUNDING SOURCES:</b> None
<b>TOTAL COST OF PROJECT:</b> \$4,729
<b>BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT, INCLUDING ANY CONSTRUCTION REQUIRED:</b>
<p>The overall goal of this project is to have citizens of Northborough become more familiar with and appreciative of the town's history. Our approach is to identify historic sites within Northborough with informative plaques. This project specifically is to replace the existing Wachusett Aqueduct Marker that was stolen on or before October 7, 2023. The original marker was funded by CPA in 2013.</p> <p>After confirming that the marker was not in possession of DPW for maintenance purposes we filed a report with the Northborough Police Department on October 9. We also had an article about the missing marker published in the <i>Community Advocate</i> and on their social media sites, appealing for its return. We are in constant communication with NPD on the status but it is unlikely that the historic marker will be returned.</p>

Acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Please answer the following questions. Applications will be returned as incomplete if all relevant requested information is not provided. Include additional pages of supporting materials and exhibits if necessary.

1. **GOALS:** What are the goals of the proposed project? Who will benefit and why? How will success be measured?

The goal of this project is to replace the stolen historic marker with an exact replacement. The original marker contractor, Crown Trophy of Northborough has the original marker mockup on file. The replacement sign will be installed by Northborough DPW and will incorporate Loctite adhesive as recommended by the sign maker, to make it more difficult to remove.

This historic marker is significant to the town and region. This eight arch stone bridge over the Assabet River carried water from the Wachusett Reservoir to the Sudbury Reservoir as part of the Metropolitan Water Supply for Greater Boston. It was constructed in 1896-1898 and was one of the most advanced civil engineering projects in the United States at that time. This bridge, along with the entire 12 mile Aqueduct, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This plaque will include an old photo of the Aqueduct under construction. The exact mockup of the sign is shown under 9.

2. **ELIGIBILITY FOR CPA FUNDS:** From your review of the procedural sheet, describe how your project is eligible for the CPA category you have chosen.

This project meets the goals of the CPA to assist communities with the preservation of historic resources. This project is a replacement for a project that had been funded by CPA in 2013. CPA has also funded similar historic marker projects throughout Northborough including: Assabetville Mills Site, Brigham Street Burial Ground Interpretive Sign, Chapinville Mill Site, Gale Store Site, Howard Street Burial Ground Interpretive Sign, John Brigham Saw Mill Site, Mark Fidrych Sign, Mount Assabet, Native American Trail Marker, and the Rev. Whitney Parsonage Site.

The project aligns with the 2020 Northborough Master Plan, Natural, Cultural & Historic Chapter, Section NCH2: "Maintain and Expand the Protection of Northborough's Historic Resources." The goals of the Master Plan was expanded upon in the 2022 Northborough Historic Preservation Plan. Specific to this project is part of Goal NCH2-2, "Continue to Promote and Awareness of Northborough's History", specifically: "Continue the program of installing historic markers and interpretive signage around town." (Historic Preservation Plan NCH2-2, page 92)

3. **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** What is the nature and level of support and/or opposition for this project? Include either a letter of support from the town board (Housing Partnership, Historic District Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Commission etc.) or a letter from the board stating why they do not support this application.

In addition to the alignment with the goals of the 2020 Northborough Master Plan and 2022 Preservation Plan mentioned in 2. above;  
Evidence of the community support for preservation of Northborough's historic character is demonstrated by;

- 1) re-activation of the Historical Commission,
- 2) passage of the Community Preservation Act,
- 3) previous CPA funding support at Town Meeting for :
  - a) conducting the historical resources inventory
  - b) preservation of historical town documents and maps
  - c) Town Hall renovations
  - d) Improvements to the Historical Society Building
  - e) Signage identifying Historical Sites within the Town
- 4) active participation of the community in the Historical Society.

4. **BUDGET:** What is the total budget for the project and how will CPA funds be spent? All items of expenditure must be clearly identified and back-up documentation provided. If the project involves construction on Town or school land, it may need to meet procurement and prevailing wage requirements.

Assabet Sign	\$4,299	(quote from Crown Trophy)
Installation	\$ 0	(installation covered by DPW)
Contingency	\$ 430	(10%, includes expected price increase if delayed)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,729</b>	

5. **FUNDING:** What additional funding sources are available, committed or under consideration? Include commitment letters and describe any other attempts to secure funding for this project.

NONE

6. **TIMELINE:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for all critical elements? This should include the timeline for expenditures, receipt of other funds and/or other revenues, if any.

We expect the projected could be completed in 1-2 months after the CPA award.

We have already received a quote from the sign maker and they have the design, wording and picture mockup from the original. It is expected the sign could be completed within 1 month of the order and instillation scheduled with DPW concurrently.

7. **IMPLEMENTATION:** Who will be responsible for implementing the project? Who will the project manager be? What relevant experience does the proposed project manager have? Who else will be involved in project implementation and what arrangements have been made with them?

The overall implementation of the project will be monitored by the Northborough Historical Commission and led by Robert Licht, Chair of the Commission. Mr. Licht has over 40 years of R&D project management experience and was the Director, Government Programs with Saint-Gobain managing government contracts.

The key parts of this project include sign making and installation. As mentioned, Crown Trophy made the original sign and has the original sign mark up so there will not need to be a design phase. Installation will be handled by the DPW, which has done several of these historic marker installations in the past.

8. **MAINTENANCE:** If on-going maintenance is required, who will be responsible and how will it be funded?

Maintenance is not expected, except for possible cleaning of the sign by the DPW or volunteer activity sponsored by the Historical Commission. As mentioned, the DPW plans to use Loctite adhesive to help prevent theft.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** If applicable:

9. **FURTHER DOCUMENTATION:** Documentation that you have control over the site, such as a Purchase and Sale Agreement, option or deed; any feasibility reports, renderings or other relevant studies and material; and any additional information that might benefit the CPC in their consideration of this project.

Attached is the original historic marker mockup, which will be duplicated by Crown Trophy.

