

Stone Building Project #1032

Request to Community Preservation Committee

Submitted by Carol Kowalski, Assistant Town Manager for Development
Town of Lexington Land Use, Health, and Development Office

Following the completion of the Historic Structures report by HKT Architects on the Stone Building in FY 2008, a Heritage Center coordinating group met in 2009 and prepared a draft implementation plan and mission statement. Annual Town Meeting appropriated funds for exterior stabilization and preservation which was carried out in 2009 and 2010. Preservation architects Menders Torrey and Spencer prepared recommendations for preservation for reuse. Prior to advancing further preservation investment as described in the reports, this project seeks to ascertain market interest among local and regional arts and cultural groups in the using the first floor to mount rotating exhibitions open to the public.

This FY 2018 CPC request seeks \$25,000 to contract with an exhibit curator to research arts and cultural groups and to gauge the feasibility of and interest in using the first floor as a rotating exhibition space for arts and cultural groups, including Lexington and regional historical and arts entities, in a manner consistent with the HKT historic structures report and the Menders Torrey Spencer historic preservation recommendations. Recall that the HKT report presented two options for making the building handicapped accessible, to allow proper egress from both floors, to add bathrooms that meet code, and other updates.

The deliverable will be a market assessment report identifying groups and entities interested in using the first floor for rotating exhibitions of loans from other museums and organizations, given the building's available space, while having mutually-exclusive use of the upper floor as a lyceum and for community use. The report would also identify the arts and cultural groups' general security requirements, climate control needs and other physical conditions necessary to secure and protect the art and artifacts while on exhibition at the Stone Building. Recommendations on operations alternatives would also be expected.

There are seven purposes defined in the deed:

1. A branch library
2. A public reading room
3. A public art museum
4. A meeting place for classes
5. Public lectures authorized by the Trustees of Cary Library
6. A room for children and youth of Lexington under the supervision of the Trustees
7. Any other purposes that the Trustees find consistent with the Library's mission.

This submission was coordinated with the Town Manager, and with consultation by the Director of the Historical Society Executive Director who expressed interest in the Society exhibiting in the space.

Prior CPC funding:

Completed FY 2008 Projects, 2007 ATM: Amount Appropriated/ Amount Spent

Art. 26 (g) East Lexington Branch Library (Stone Building) - Historic Structure Report. \$43,000/ \$43,000

Completed FY 2010 Projects, 2009 ATM and STM: Amount Appropriated/ Amount Spent Art. 11 (h) Stone Building Renovation. \$180,000/ \$52,093

Completed FY 2011 Projects, 2010 ATM: Amount Appropriated/ Amount Spent

Art. 8 (q) Stone Building Exterior Stabilization. \$202,933/ \$202,927