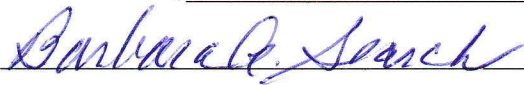


Michael Steinitz  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Due: 5 p.m., November 16, 2020  
No faxed or emailed applications

**FY 2021 LETTER OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR SURVEY AND PLANNING FUNDS**

1. PROJECT TITLE: Communitywide Historic Preservation Plan
2. COMMUNITY/COMMUNITIES: Town of Sturbridge
3. APPLICANT ORGANIZATION: Sturbridge Historical Commission  
ADDRESS: 301 Main Street  
Sturbridge, MA 01566  
PHONE: (508) 345-2508 FAX: (508) 347-8243  
EMAIL: basearch@gmail.com
4. LOCAL PROJECT COORDINATOR: Jean Bubon, Town Planner  
ADDRESS: 301 Main Street  
Sturbridge, MA 01566  
PHONE: (508) 347-2508 FAX: (508) 347-8243  
EMAIL: jbubon@sturbridge.gov
5. AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 15,000.00 (50%)  
LOCAL SHARE: \$ 15,000.00 (50%)  
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$ 30,000.00 (100%)
6. PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND MATCHING SHARE INFORMATION (ESTIMATED):  
LOCAL SHARE SOURCE: Community Preservation Funds  
CASH AMOUNT: \$ 15,000.00  
IN-KIND SERVICES (paid employee on staff): \$ TBD  
DONATED VOLUNTEER TIME: \$ TBD
7. AUTHORIZED APPLICANT SIGNATURE:   
Barbara Search  
(NAME, PLEASE PRINT)  
Chair, Sturbridge Historical Commission  
(TITLE) (DATE) 11/3/20
8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT (**ATTACH A ONE-PAGE, TYPED NARRATIVE STATEMENT**):

Explain in a concise statement how the proposed project relates to past, current, and future preservation activity in the community, region or state. Describe how the results of the proposed project will be incorporated into the community, region, or state planning process, and the extent to which the results will be made available and used by the general public. Provide any other information on the special qualities of the project, which makes it deserving of funding. Please address the five Selection Criteria for Pre-Applications. (See Guidelines Item F.)

**STATEMENT REGARDING GRANT FUDING APPLICATION FOR**  
**STURBRIDGE COMMUNITYWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN**

Sturbridge is easily accessed by major highways as it lies at the junction of Interstate 84, Interstate 90 and US Route 20. This central location combined with the many amenities such as a major a living history museum, fine dining establishments, trail network and ample hotel rooms have all spurred rapid residential and commercial growth over the past thirty years. When coupled with the high traffic volumes passing through town for a variety of events such as the Brimfield Flea Market and even daily commuter traffic, Sturbridge has become a very desirable area for development and extremely vulnerable to the loss of historic assets.

Recognizing the potential threat from these development pressures, the current Sturbridge Master Plan establishes a variety of goals related to documenting historical and archaeological assets, educating residents about the importance of maintaining the historic character of the town and initiate and support local bylaws that will encourage preservation of historic assets. A Historic Preservation Plan would help the Commission further these goals.

The preservation efforts of the Sturbridge Historical Commission have included the adoption by the Town of a Demolition Delay Bylaw and the recent completion of two Historic Resources Inventory projects prepared by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Public Archaeology Laboratory with assistance from the Town's Community Preservation funding and MHC funding. The final reports include a comprehensive inventory and related mapping of approximately 200 of Sturbridge's historic built resources. In addition to this work, funding from the Community Preservation Act has been used for the historic renovation on the Town Hall and Center Office Building.

While these surveys have been invaluable in helping us assess some of our historic resources; there is a need to take this work a step further and develop a community wide historic preservation planning document designed help the town improve preservation efforts of historic and cultural resources in the Town by identification of historic preservation priorities and the development of an Action Plan to ensure implementation of priority historic preservation goals.

A professional consultant will be necessary to help the Historical Commission in the preparation of this plan. While we have an active and engaged volunteer Commission and Planning Department; we do not have a Planner with expertise in Historic Preservation Planning. The proposed project aligns closely with the priorities of MHC to identify, evaluate and preserve important historical assets and the Sturbridge Historical Commission's goal to assist in the preservation of local historic assets. The Plan will be used to help inform future planning and budgetary decisions and to help educate residents about the importance of maintaining the historic character of the town.

Based upon past actions, the Sturbridge Community Preservation Committee is expected to support our request for the Local Share of \$15,000.00 at its November meeting and Town Meeting is expected to do the same, however there is no other likely funding source available. In addition, the local historical society has no real budget or fundraising component.

As with our prior grant award, the Sturbridge Historical Commission is committed to meet all required deadlines. Upon being awarded the grant funding, the Historical Commission will put out a Request for Proposals and a Scope of Work with timelines. A contractor will be chosen who will be committed and contracted to begin the project by July 1, 2020 and to finish the project by June 30, 2022.