



October 23, 2023

Community Preservation Committee
Town of Lenox
Town Hall
13-33 Walker Street
Lenox, MA 01240

Dear Community Preservation Committee:

Here are two copies of an application for CPA funding from Church on the Hill, UCC to help restore our clock, clock tower, cupola, and weathervane in 2024. We are also sending separately the application in electronic form.

On behalf of the Church, let me thank you for the opportunity to apply and for your consideration of our request. We believe that the application is complete and responsive to your requirements but if you have questions or need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to your decision, which we understand will probably come early next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rev. Elizabeth Goodman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Elizabeth Goodman
Pastor, Church on the Hill, UCC

TOWN OF LENOX
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
APPLICATION FOR CPA FUNDING

Date Received (office use only)_____

Applicant Name: Church on the Hill UCC, Lenox,
MA

Project Name: Restoration of the Meeting House clock, clock tower, cupola and
weathervane

Project Address: 169 Main Street, Lenox, MA

Contact Person: Title: Rev. Liz Goodman, Pastor of Church on the
Hill

Phone No.: 413-637-1001

E-Mail: admin@lenoxucc.org

Brief Project Description (Attach up to 1 additional page if necessary)

Church on the Hill UCC (COH) in Lenox seeks a grant of \$76,000 to help restore the clock tower and cupola at its Meeting House at 169 Main Street while also renovating the exterior of the clock and the historic weathervane that sits atop the building. *See Attachment A for a more detailed description of the project.*

Amount of CPA funding to be requested: \$76,000.00

The property is current with all payments to the town (taxes, water/sewer bills, etc.): Yes

Property Owner (if different from applicant)

Owner's Name: Congregation of Church on the Hill UCC, John Powell
moderator

Owner's Address: 55 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240

Phone No.: 413-637-1001 E-Mail: admin@lenox.org

If the Owner is different from the applicant, you must include a letter signed by the Owner giving permission to apply for funds for the specified project on the Owner's property.

In the following chart, mark the box(es) which best describe your project.

Boxes indicating "NO" are not CPA eligible activities.

Allowable Uses Chart Check applicable category to the right.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	OPEN SPACE	HISTORIC RESOURCES	RECREATIONAL LAND	COMMUNITY HOUSING
Definitions (G.L. c. 44B, §2)	Land to protect existing and future well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, watershed land, agricultural land, grasslands, fields, forest land, fresh and salt water marshes and other wetlands, ocean, river, stream, lake and pond frontage, beaches, dunes and other coastal lands, lands to protect scenic vistas, land for wildlife or nature preserve and land for recreational use	Building, structure, vessel, real property, document or artifact listed on the state register of historic places or determined by the local historic preservation commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the city or town.	Land for active or passive recreational use including, but not limited, the use of land for community gardens, trails, and noncommercial youth and adult sports, and the use of land as a park, playground or athletic field. Does <u>not</u> include horse or dog racing or the use of land for a stadium, gymnasium or similar structure.	Housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families, including low or moderate income seniors. Moderate income is less than 100%, and low income is less than 80% of US HUD Area Wide Median Income.
ACQUISITION Obtain property interest by gift, purchase, devise, grant, rental, rental purchase, lease or otherwise. Only includes eminent domain taking as provided by G.L.c. 44B.	YES	YES	YES	YES
CREATION To bring into being or cause to exist. <i>Sedeman v. City of Newton</i> , 452 Mass. 472 *200*)	YES	NO	YES	YES
PRESERVATION Protect personal or real property from injury, harm or destruction.	YES	YES	YES	YES
SUPPORT Provide grants, loans, rental assistance, security deposits, interest-rate write downs or other forms of assistance directly to individuals and families who are eligible for community housing or to entity that owns, operates or manages such housing, for the purpose of making housing affordable.	NO	NO	NO	YES, INCLUDES FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST.
REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION Make capital improvements, or extraordinary repairs to make assets functional for intended use, including improvements to comply with federal, state or local building or access codes or federal standards for rehabilitation of historic properties.	YES, IF ACQUIRED OR CREATED WITH CP FUNDS.	YES	YES	YES, IF ACQUIRED OR CREATED WITH CP FUNDS

TOWN OF LENOX

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

APPLICATION FOR CPA FUNDING

Date Received (for office use only) _____

This application contains thirteen (13) questions which must be answered by ALL applicants. Category specific projects must also answer the specific category sections provided. If your project can be categorized into multiple CPA categories, you must provide responses to ALL pertinent category specific questions.

You may attach additional sheets as necessary to answer the numbered questions. Please clearly organize and mark your additional sheets for the Committee's review with your project name, contact information, and headings indicating which questions and category of project you are referencing in your narrative sheets. Please include page numbers.

Address: Church on the Hill Meeting House, 169 Main St., Lenox, MA 01240

Map 46 Lot 46-18-0

Deed Book/Page 337 / 232

- 1) Existing use or deed restrictions, permanent easements, historic designations, special permits, etc. if any: National Register of Historic Places
- 2) Project Budget (list all sources and uses, including grants, fundraising, etc.)

Project Category	Community Housing	Historic Preservation	Open Space	Recreation	
		Y1			
Source Name		See Attachment B			
Amount					
% of Total					
Used for					
Committed?					
Total Project Budget:	\$194,198.00				
CPC Request:	\$76,000 (39% of total needed)				

Attach additional budget sheets or project budget as necessary. Include project management, oversight, engineering, and administrative costs that may be incurred. *See Attachment B.*

- 3) Timing of Funds: Describe when CPA funds and other funding sources are to be received.

COH requests all funds to be received in 2024.

- 4) Proposed Use or Deed Restrictions after Project Completion (in accordance w/ CPA rules):

A Preservation Restriction agreement was filed on 2/25/1987 with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds at Book 337, page 232. *See Attachment C or follow the hyperlink: https://www.lenoxucc.org/_files/ugd/bd62ac_a71f7e27d1eb4fa6942a082b1274c7a0.pdf*

- 5) Describe the project team:

Rev. Liz Goodman, Pastor of Church on the Hill UCC

Davis Dyer, COH congregation member

Janice McCormick, resident of Lenox

Dr. W. Peter Metz, COH congregation member

Robert Harrison, architect

Sean Kane, general manager, About Time Restorations (clock repair)

Paul Bastiannse, general manager, Valley Restoration (steeple/cupola repair)

- 6) Additional Information: Attach, as necessary, additional material including photographs, maps, letters of support, feasibility studies, ownership letters or site control verification, engineer or architect drawings. For Historic Preservation projects, if the project is not state register listed, the applicant must provide a letter from the Historical Commission which details the significance of the project to Lenox's history, culture, architecture or archeology.

See Attachments D (Photographs) and E (Letters of Support)

Funding Considerations

(All applicants must fill out this section)

7) In what way is CPA funding a catalyst for leveraging other funding sources?

CPA funding is critical to enabling the project to move forward since COH cannot afford to underwrite the work on its own. COH has raised \$21,000 from private donations and will tap its endowment for more than \$77,000. The Church cannot responsibly draw more from the endowment without putting its financial health at risk.

8) What is the breadth of impact on the lives of the citizens of the Town?

A well-maintained Meeting House improves the lives of citizens of the Town of Lenox in multiple ways. Without restoration of the clock tower, cupola, and weathervane, the exposed wood and metal will further deteriorate, and the structures will continue to degrade. The historic weathervane will become even more corroded and unsightly. Without preservation, additional pieces of the Tower may fall and endanger nearby pedestrians and vehicles. Hence the Town risks one of its most visible landmarks becoming a public eyesore and safety hazard. Citizens of the Town would lose an attractive venue for concerts and community events. Residents and visitors would no longer enjoy the clock and bell sounding the hours across the Town. The clock tower houses an AT&T cellular antenna and the quality and extent of cellular service in the Town could be compromised.

In the past two years — since coming out of the pandemic — the Meeting House has hosted numerous events open to the community beyond regular worship services. It has held a summer series of musical performances (folk and popular, as well as classical), a well-attended Christmas holiday concert, and the public showing of the movie *Hello, Bookstore*, followed by a Q&A with director A. B. Zax and Matt Tannenbaum. Boston University Tanglewood Institute offers recitals and performances in the building each summer. The Meeting House has also been used for weddings and funerals of residents who are not affiliated with COH. As discussed below (Questions 13 and 19), COH has developed a Master Plan to make the building substantially more accessible to the public.

9) What is the economic benefit to the Town?

The Meeting House is a widely recognized, important historic landmark in Lenox that contributes to the vitality and appeal of the Town as a tourist attraction, especially in combination with the adjoining cemetery. *See Attachment F, a recent article from The Berkshire Eagle that underscores the shared identity of COH and the cemetery.*

10) What is the long-term benefit to the Town?

Long-term benefits include the maintenance of a historic and prestigious community asset whose charm contributes to the Town's appeal as a vibrant community and attractive tourist destination. As noted, COH has a Master Plan to render the Meeting House an even more attractive venue for community events, activities, and purposes.

11) What is the long-term cost to the town if action not taken?

If repairs and restorations are not completed, deterioration will continue and either the cost of historic preservation work will rise, perhaps dramatically, or in the worst case, the clock tower and everything above it will be further visibly damaged, transforming this landmark building into a blot on the landscape. This would mean that the money that the Lenox CPC has already provided will have been misspent. Finally, should the COH congregation eventually prove unable to maintain the Meeting House, its disposition may become a public responsibility.

12) What is the urgency of the project?

The project is urgent to avoid incurring additional costs related to replacement of rotted wood and further deterioration of the clock face, a potential risk noted in the contractors' estimates. Pieces of the clock tower and cupola have already fallen off, a potential danger to anyone near the building.

Funding the project now will facilitate cost-effective completion of the work begun in 2021 to restore the clock and bell. Sharing the costs of scaffolding necessary to finish that work and

the proposed project to restore the clock tower, cupola, and weathervane will save many thousands of dollars alone.

13) Explain any other factors which may be relevant to your specific project.

The project is an essential first step in COH's Master Plan to restore the Meeting House and make it more accessible and useful to the wider community. The Meeting House is an affordable and flexible venue with superb acoustics. It holds exciting potential to host performances and events appealing to the general public. The congregation aspires to make this historic building become a vital community resource for the Town's residents and visitors. That aspiration will become much more difficult or impossible to realize without the Town's support to restore the clock, clock tower, cupola, and weathervane.

Historic Preservation Projects

(Only Historic Preservation projects must fill out this section)

Applicants should note: All CPA-funded historic preservation projects must comply with the US Secretary of the Interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties.

- 18)** Clearly describe how the project meets Historic Preservation goals of the Community Preservation Plan and the 2021 Master Plan:

With the Meeting House occupying an important place in the Town's history, as well as its present and future, the project clearly meets the goals of the Community Preservation Plan. The classic architecture of the Meeting House is itself a form of public art that is widely admired. COH has provided careful and responsible stewardship of its properties since they were built, and with the help of the CPC, expects to do so into the future.

COH's application to the CPC meets the criteria set in forth in its 2021 Master Plan as the proposed work at the Meeting House will preserve one of the Town's outstanding historical, cultural, and visual resources. It represents the Town's history and development; it is an extraordinary example of early nineteenth century architecture; and it is increasingly used beyond its original purpose as a house of worship as a venue for cultural and community events and activities. The restoration of the Church will complement the Town's goal to improve walkways and fill gaps in walkability, especially if the proposed sidewalk on the West side of Main Street from Triangle Park to Church on the Hill is built to improve pedestrian traffic and safety between the Town Center and the Church and cemetery.

- 19)** Describe any other relevant information about the project and the site.

COH is in the process of re-imagining and expanding its role in the community. As noted above, the congregation has recently developed a Master Plan to make the Meeting House more accessible and available to the community for non-religious purposes. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has approved the plan, which assures that the historical character of the Meeting House will be preserved. The building will continue to house regular worship services, yet it will also become more versatile. It will be able to host gatherings such as community meals, family reunions, holiday celebrations, concerts and dances, theater productions, craft fairs, and farmers' markets. To this end, the pews will become moveable on improved flooring. A full kitchenette will be added, along with more efficient heating and lighting, new entry stairs, refurbished doors, and easier parking. The building will also become ADA-compliant, with a fully accessible bathroom, as well as a new entry ramp and lifts to provide access to the front stage and balcony. This work will be supported by vigorous fund raising.

- 20)** Historic preservation projects should provide information describing the historic, cultural, architectural and archeological significance of their site and a letter of support from the Historical Commission.

The congregation first formed in Lenox in 1769 and began to flourish in 1795 with the arrival of Rev. Dr. Samuel Shepard. During the Town's first century, COH served as one of its most prominent and vital institutions. The Meeting House, a blend of the best prevailing architectural styles, was dedicated on January 1, 1806. It remains a model of its kind today. The clock tower was constructed after a Charles Bulfinch design, while the cupola above the clock is an Asher Benjamin design.

The congregation approved the present floor plan in 1866, and in 1880 the front wall was extended eight feet to create room for the current stage and pulpit. In 1955, the building was completely electrified and a year-round heating system installed. The Meeting House earned a listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

Fanny Kemble donated the original clock in 1849. Because it "did not have an enviable reputation for telling the truth about the time of day," it was replaced in 1899 with a clock from Seth Thomas & Co. The clock was electrified and modernized in 2022 at the same time as the bell, which had been silent for five years, resumed tolling the hours across the Town.

Certification

24) This application was prepared, reviewed, submitted by:

Name: Rev. Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

Phone No.: 413-637-1001

E-Mail: rev.elizabeth.goodman@gmail.com

I hereby certify that all of the above and included information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. [for non-municipal applicants only: I further declare my willingness to enter into a Contract with the Town of Lenox, including liens, deed restrictions and other means of security to govern the use and expenditure of CPA funds.]

Signature: Rev. Elizabeth Goodman

Date: October 23, 2023

List of Attachments

- A. Project Description
- B. Project Budget and Funding, including Contractor Estimates
- C. 1987 Preservation Restriction
- D. Photographs
- E. Letters of Support
- F. Recent article from *The Berkshire Eagle*

ATTACHMENT A

Project Description

Church on the Hill UCC (COH) in Lenox seeks funding to help restore the clock tower and cupola at its Meeting House at 169 Main Street while also renovating the exterior of the clock and the historic weathervane that sits atop the building.

One of the few remaining churches in New England built in the Federalist style, the Meeting House is a historic and iconic building in Lenox. It has served as a place of worship since its dedication in 1806 and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1982. The clock tower and cupola above the clock are notable examples of early American architecture at its finest. Use of the Meeting House itself has expanded and it hosts performances and community events in addition to weekly worship.

The congregation has conscientiously maintained the Meeting House and the public areas are structurally sound. Despite this, the clock tower and cupola have not aged well. Several years ago, the bell ceased to function, and the mechanical clock installed in 1899 proved difficult to operate and maintain and was periodically unreliable. Pieces from the clock tower and clock itself fell to the ground, posing a safety hazard.

In 2021, the Lenox CPC awarded COH a grant totaling \$40,350 to support several projects, including repairs to the clock, bell, and bell tower. As a result, in 2022, the clock and bell were restored to working order. Before the project could be completed, however, contractors found serious degradation of the clock tower and cupola as well as considerable damage to the exterior of the clock and the weathervane. It is preferable to address these problems as soon as possible lest they become much more challenging and expensive to fix later. (For example, sharing the scaffolding necessary to complete the 2021 project to repair the clock and bell and the proposed restoration of the clock tower, cupola, and weathervane will save many thousands of dollars alone.)

As detailed below, estimates to complete the necessary repairs (including unfinished work from the 2021 project), total \$194,198. To help meet this cost, COH understands that it can apply the unused portion of the 2021 Lenox CPC grant, as well as private donations and endowment funds. With this application, COH seeks a grant of \$76,000 from the Lenox CPC to complete the project.

ATTACHMENT B

Church on the Hill Meeting House Restoration Project Budget October 2023

- A) Final payment for painting of clock numerals and hands once that work is completed (About Time Restorations)
- a. \$5,000
- B) Repair of Clock Dials (Valley Restoration):
- a. \$ 19,900 clock face 1
 - b. \$ 19,900 clock face 2
 - c. \$ 45,033 scaffold rental
- Total: \$ 84,833
- C) Additional work: restoration of cupola, roofing, scaffold rental and weathervane restoration (Valley Restoration)
- a. \$ 39,160 cupola painting and carpentry
 - b. \$ 45,375 EPDM roofing
 - c. \$ 6,300 additional scaffold rental to complete work after clock dials are repaired
 - d. \$ 13,530 weathervane restoration
- Total: \$104,365

Total cost, including project management oversight, engineering and administrative costs:
\$194,198.00

Sources of financial support for the work:

\$20,172 unspent from the 2021 Lenox CPC grant (10% of total needed)
\$21,000 from private donations to Church on the Hill (11%)
\$77,026 from Church endowment (40%)

Potential source of support for the work:

\$76,000 sought from new Lenox CPC grant (39%)

Total: **\$194,198.00**

Contractor Invoices and Estimates

1. About Time Restorations, LLC, for painting of the clock faces, numerals, and hands.
This work, which requires scaffolding, will be the final payment for work on the clock and bell begun in 2021.
2. Valley Restoration, LLC, with separate estimates for:
 - a. Cupola carpentry and painting, roofing, and painting of the weathervane
 - b. Fabrication and installation of 2 new clock dials

Documentation from About Time Restorations showing that final payment for work begun in 2021 totals \$5,000. The payment will be reimbursed when painting of the clock faces, numerals, and hands is completed.

About Time Restorations,
LLC
PO Box 392
Higganum, CT 06441 US
(860) 345-7655
skaneabouttime@gmail.com
abouttimect.com



Credit 1150 Cap Cam
Deb 01-5090-001 Rep. 11/10/21
Clock tower Restoration

INVOICE

BILL TO

Liz Goodman
169 Main St
Lenox, Ma 01240 USA

INVOICE # 1136
DATE 11/10/2021
DUE DATE 12/10/2021
TERMS Net 30

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
Services Provide labor and material to automate the two face clock at the church on the hill in Lenox Ma. Material Provided: (2) SC1MI Movements (1) 99BMI Automatic clock controller that auto resets if loss of power and for day light savings. (1) Bell Hammer Actuator. (2) Sets of aluminum or Cedar Hands Painted gold	1	20,176.00	20,176.00
Services Provide labor and material to paint the two faces of the clock at the church on the hill in Lenox Ma. The faces will be painted black and the numbers and minute designations will be painted gold to match the hands	1	5,000.00	5,000.00
Deposit/Deposit 50% Deposit	1	-12,589.00	-12,589.00
Deposit/Deposit Payment for work completed to date	1	-7,589.00	-7,589.00

PAYMENT
BALANCE DUE 5,000.00
\$0.00

5/17/23 Telco conversation w/ S. Kane.
Call over \$7,589 now, plus a final
payment of \$5,000 when work is complete

5/11
PC



Valley Restoration, LLC. Historic Plaster Solutions, LLC.

SteepleJacks and Historic Preservation

PO Box 665, Litchfield, CT 06759

MCO0903779

Lenox Church on the Hill UCC
697 Main Street
Lenox, MA.

May 1, 2023

After on-site inspection and discussion, we submit the following proposal for your consideration.

Cupola Carpentry and Painting

- Gain access to cupola using Scaffold System.
- Scrape and clean entire steeple using hand tools and light sand. HEPA Vacuum attachments will be used in order to reduce the amount of dust created by scraping. A 20' perimeter will be established around the base of the church with lead caution signs. Any chips that fall on the ground will be vacuumed up at the end of each working day.
- Application of one (1) coat of Mad Dog Primer to entire steeple. (Maddogprimer.com)
- After proper curing time; caulk, glaze and seal all imperfections.
- Set and seal all exposed nail heads.
- Quote includes replacement of minor dry or wet rot. Anything that is extensive we will notify a designated Church representative before we begin work. Carpentry will be replaced as a base time and material.
- After proper curing, application of two (2) coats of Sherwin Williams Duration or equivalent. (Merrifield Paints of Rocky Hill, CT)
- Install new urns to upper and lower balustrade.

Roofing

- Cut out existing drip and rake edge on the lower bell deck flat seam as well as the middle metal roof.
- Remove balustrade system and store on site.
- Mechanically install 1.4 Invisaboard to all flat seam roofing.
- Install .060 Firestone or Carlisle White EPDM Rubber Roofing system with flashing to go up 4". Install copper drip edge.

Weathervane

- Remove weathervane and take back to our shop.

Application Form

- Application of Dux yellow primer to previously gilded areas.
- Application of Dux Slow Oil Based Sizing.
- Once sizing comes to proper tack, lay 23.75k 23 gram Italian Gold Leaf.
- Burnish to correct sheen.

Cost Sheet

Cupola Painting and Carpentry **\$39,160.00**

EPDM Roofing **\$45,375.00**

Scaffold Rental **\$6,300.00 30 days**

Please note the majority of the scaffold rental has been proposed on the clock dial project and this price only represents the additional 30 days needed to complete the entire project.

Weathervane Restoration **\$13,530.00**

Terms of Payment
AIA Billing

Certificate of insurance will be provided before any work begins.
We follow all OSHA requirements concerning fall arrest system and employee safety.
EPA Certification for Lead Renovation R-I-91919-20-00030.
We will not interfere with any Church activities or functions.

We have an extensive list of references. Please contact us for previously completed projects in your area.

Thank you for the opportunity to quote on this project. Feel free to contact me at anytime via cell 860-818-7022.

Paul Bastiaanse
Paul Bastiaanse
Valley Restoration, LLC.
SteepleJacks and Historical Preservation

Acceptance _____

Date:



Valley Restoration, LLC. Historic Plaster Solutions, LLC.

SteepleJacks and Historic Preservation
PO Box 665, Litchfield, CT 06759
MCO0903779

Lenox Church on the Hill UCC
697 Main Street
Lenox, MA.

May 1, 2023

After on-site inspection and discussion, we submit the following proposal for your consideration.

Clock Dials

- Fabricate 2 new dials using Sipo Mahogany.
- Each boards will be tongue and groove, fastened in the center and caulked at each edge to allow for expansion. Outer trim will have an intentional gap covered with lead. A weep hole will be installed at the 6 o'clock position.
- We will reuse the numerals and minute points and the same gilding application as the weathervane.
- Install into new ice and water backed and flashed framing.
- Note: crane will need to be used to install. The scaffold will need to be broken down to that level.

Cost Sheet

Clock Dials Fabricate and Install **\$19,900.00 Per Dial**

Scaffold Rental **\$45,033.00 30 days**

Terms of Payment
AIA Billing

Certificate of insurance will be provided before any work begins.
We follow all OSHA requirements concerning fall arrest system and employee safety.
EPA Certification for Lead Renovation R-I-91919-20-00030.
We will not interfere with any Church activities or functions.

We have an extensive list of references. Please contact us for previously completed projects in your area.

Thank you for the opportunity to quote on this project. Feel free to contact me at anytime via cell 860-818-7022.

Paul Bastiaanse
Paul Bastiaanse
Valley Restoration, LLC.
SteepleJacks and Historical Preservation

Acceptance _____

Date:

ATTACHMENT C

1987 Preservation Restriction

Paper copies submitted separately. Electronic copy available at

https://www.lenoxucc.org/_files/ugd/bd62ac_a71f7e27d1eb4fa6942a082b1274c7a0.pdf

ATTACHMENT D

Photographs

Clock Tower and Cupola Damage (viewed from a drone)



Pieces from the Clock Tower Found on the Pavement Below



Balusters from Cupola



Hand from Clock Dial

ATTACHMENT E

Letters of Support



October 10, 2023

Dear Members of the Lenox Community Preservation Committee:

As moderator for the Church on the Hill, I am writing to support the request for funding from the Town of Lenox for the preservation and restoration of the clock tower and cupola. Without restoration the exposed wood and metal will further deteriorate, and the structure will eventually collapse. Given how important this building is, to the town's aesthetic and identity, and to all who rely on the cell service the cell tower in our clock tower provides, this is an unthinkable result of any inaction at this point!

Church on the Hill possesses a long and rich history. Its iconic building serves as one of the gateways to the Lenox Cultural District. The Church on the Hill's aim is to make the Meeting House a more central and vital component of the community life in Lenox.

The renovation master plan developed by Foresight Architectural, a renowned firm specializing in historical renovation and sacred spaces, has been approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and will preserve the historical character of the Meeting House. This plan will allow the Meeting House to be more versatile and able to hold concerts, theater productions, art shows and other events as well as continue to hold regular worship services. In order to secure further funding for this ambitious project, we are also starting a capital campaign to solicit private donations, which will go public within the next few months.

I urge the Community Preservation Commission to support this restorative work for the Church on the Hill.

Thank you for your consideration.

John L. Powell
Moderator
413-446-3985
Johnpowe4@aol.com



LENOX HISTORICAL COMMISSION
6 WALKER STREET, LENOX MASSACHUSETTS 01240

October 11, 2023

Attn: Tom Delasco
Lenox CPC, Chairperson

Dear CPC,

The Lenox Historical Commission wishes to express its support for the Church on the Hill (COH) restoration project. The project proposes restoration of the Clock, repair of the Cupola, Roofing and Weathervane at the COH Meeting House.

Since 1806, the COH, representing the long and rich history of the town has served as a gateway to the Town of Lenox. Over time repairs have been needed and this is one iconic building that Lenox must preserve. The location of the Meeting House, at the crest of the hill, wonderfully highlighting its beauty and value, takes an especially hard hit from the weather.

The Lenox CPC has already supported work on the clock and bell. It is wonderful to once again hear the bell mark time and be able to see the correct time on the clock face. However, these enhancements urgently require structural support. (It is noted that parts off the tower have fallen onto the driveway below).

The commitment of the congregation of the COH is evident from the fact that they are contributing over half of the projected cost from its endowment. Further, the congregation has an active capital campaign to provide proposed improvements to the infrastructure, endorsed by the MHC, that will increase access to this venue which boasts superb acoustics and flexible seating as a community resource. The requested CPC support is essential to leverage funds for these additional improvements.

Lenox has many historical treasures, surely the significance of the COH is noteworthy.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Olga Weiss

Olga Weiss
Chair LHC

.....



The Massachusetts House of Representatives
State Representative Smitty Pignatelli
3rd Berkshire District
State House Room 166, Boston MA 02133-1053

October 12, 2023

Mr. Tom Delasco
Lenox Community Preservation Committee
Lenox Town Hall,
Lenox, Massachusetts 01240`

RE: Church on the Hill Community Preservation Act Funding

I am writing in support of the Church on the Hill's request for funding from the Town of Lenox. This funding will address urgent restoration of the clock, tower, and cupola on the historic Meeting House.

The Church on the Hill is firmly rooted in our community's history. The earliest meeting of the congregation dates back to 1769, when early settlers arrived from Connecticut. The Meeting House, built in 1806, was the original Meeting House for the Lenox community. But just as important as honoring our shared history is the congregation's twin goal of making the interior of the Meeting House flexible for use beyond Sunday worship and fully handicap accessible.

It's exciting to think of this iconic structure as a standing witness to the history and the future of Lenox. Serving as a gateway into the historic district of this lovely town, Church on the Hill is becoming increasingly involved in local culture and life. Restoring the building and readying it for increased use makes the congregation worthy of receiving the support of the Town. I urge the Community Preservation Committee to grant them funding to help them toward their aim.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Smitty".

Smitty Pignatelli
State Representative
3rd Berkshire District
rep.smitty@mahouse.gov



LENOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Lenox, MA The Berkshires

October 9, 2023

Dear Members of the Lenox Community Preservation Committee:

As the Executive Director of the Lenox Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of the grant application for Church on the Hill to restore the clock, tower, and cupola on their historic Meeting House.

Both buildings are landmarks in downtown Lenox and serve the town in many capacities by providing locations for public events and performances. These uses contribute to helping drive the economy of Lenox. Noting the aesthetic and historic importance of the Meeting House to the town of Lenox, these restoration projects are necessary as we continue to preserve our downtown.

Historic preservation is central to maintaining Lenox's distinctive character and fundamental to its attraction as a destination for visitors interested in the arts, culture, and history. As the church works on the interior of the building, which has recently been approved by the Massachusetts Historic Commission, the building will be able to expand its uses for the community. The Meeting House will be used for events such as farmers' and crafters' markets, exhibition space for art and performances, and as a gathering place for family reunions and other celebrations.

The Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Church on the Hill in its grant application to the Lenox Community Preservation Committee and I urge the committee to support this restoration as well by awarding the grant.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Jenn Nacht

Executive Director
Lenox Chamber of Commerce
jenn@lenox.org

THE MOUNT

EDITH WHARTON'S HOME

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Susan Wissler,
Executive Director

2 Plunkett Street
PO Box 974
Lenox, MA 01240
EdithWharton.org
413-551-5100

Town of Lenox Community Preservation Committee
6 Walker Street
Lenox, MA 01240

October 7, 2023

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing to support the application from The Church on the Hill UCC (COTH) of Lenox MA to the Town of Lenox Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for a community preservation grant. The Church's application is for CPC funds to help complete the restoration of the glorious tower and cupola atop the historic Meeting House building.


Sitting on the hilltop overlooking the town, the COTH Meeting House is an important symbol to residents and visitors alike of Lenox's proud history and traditions. For the first time in years, thanks to the earlier generosity of the Lenox CPC and the COH community, we can rely on the accuracy of the clock and hear the bell chime the hours across the town.

However, as is common when renovating historic buildings, the work on the clock and bell uncovered other critical problems that require urgent attention. COH is requesting CPC help to preserve this iconic and beloved asset for future generations.

I urge the CPC to help COH complete the restoration of the clock tower, cupola, clock, and weathervane atop the Meeting House.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan Wissler

Executive Director

413-551-5103

swissler@edithwharton.org



October 18, 2023

Mr. Tom Delasco
Lenox Community Preservation Committee
Lenox Town Hall,
Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

RE: Church on the Hill Community Preservation Act Funding

I am the Executive Director of The Birch Festival, which brings, throughout the year, world-leading musicians to the Berkshires to work in tandem with schools, local business, and cultural partnerships, as well as performing throughout the County. My partner, Yevgeny Kutik, and I recently launched this new endeavor at the Church on the Hill, which we chose specifically for its unparalleled acoustics and iconic setting, a place ready to receive the skill and talent we mean to attract.

For this reason, I want to encourage the Community Preservation Committee to grant funding to Church on the Hill as the congregation takes on an extensive project of historical restoration and improved accessibility and utility. Beginning with the clock, tower, and cupola, the congregation has committed to returning this historically and aesthetically important building back to its original beauty, which will be to the benefit of the whole Town and region.

In my recent collaboration with church leadership, I've come to learn how already Lenox has put CPA resources to the work of restoration. The clock keeps time again and the bell rings on the hour! This is thanks, in majority, to the Town of Lenox. It would therefore be of further good use of these resources to restore the tower in its entirety, a high point of our lovely village.

I urge the Community Preservation Committee to grant the Church on the Hill funding to help them toward this worthy aim.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Barker".

Rachel Barker
Executive Director

ATTACHMENT F

Can't find the gravestone of Serge Koussevitzky? Church on the Hill Cemetery in Lenox has a map for that

By Clarence Fanto, The Berkshire Eagle

Oct 7, 2023



Sheffield native Jeremiah Bradley's restored headstone at the Church on the Hill cemetery in Lenox. Bradley is among seven Black Civil War veterans interred at the cemetery.

BEN GARVER — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

LENOX — The town-owned cemetery at the [Church on the Hill](#) off Main Street is filled with the graves of earliest settlers, famous residents and seven Black members of three Civil War Black regiments.

Now, through the efforts of the Lenox Historical Commission, a first on-site map by artist Bart Arnold is installed at the entrance for visitors seeking guideposts to the town's earliest years.



Lenox Historic Commission Chair Olga Weiss unveils the first on-site map at the Church on the Hill cemetery last Saturday. She called the cemetery one of the town's most valuable assets since it helps visitors locate specific gravestones.

CLARENCE FANTO - BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Opened in 1771, the three-acre [Church on the Hill Burying Ground](#), as it was first known, was typical of the Colonial period, with single graves in rows across the road from the town's meeting house. According to early historians, sheep grazed to mow the grass and children played in the graveyard area during lengthy services.

"The cemetery reflects the town's history with veterans of all wars, families whose names have come and gone, and names still prominent today," according to Lenoxhistory.org.

"The cemetery really brings history to life," said Historical Commission Chair Olga Weiss during an informal gathering last weekend at the entrance.

State Rep. William “Smitty” Pignatelli of Lenox suggested printing pamphlet maps so visitors can take self-guided tours and, if cell service can be improved, a QR code for cellphone-prompted tours.

Among the gravestones now easy to locate are those of [Jonathan Hinsdale](#) (1724-1811), the first recorded settler in Lenox who built a small house on what is now Old Stockbridge Road. His daughter Rhoda was thought to be the first child born in the town.

Also buried at the cemetery are seven volunteer members of Massachusetts Black units who fought for the Union in the Civil War — including the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment, [the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment](#) and the 55th Mass. Regiment, local historian Amy Lafave of the Lenox Library pointed out. Among them are [Jeremiah Bradley](#) and Samuel Weaver.

One problem: “Many of the gravestones are illegible at this point, or missing information,” Weiss noted. “But we’re doing the best we can. I think this cemetery is one of our most valuable assets.”

Some of the prominent citizens buried at the cemetery include:

- Major-Gen. [John Paterson](#) (1744-1808), a community leader who served throughout the American Revolutionary War and was a confidant of George Washington.
- Judge [William Walker](#) (1751-1831), who served in the Revolutionary War, invested in the Lenox Dale Iron Works and presided as a county court judge until his son, William P. Walker, succeeded him in 1824.
- [Ann Kneeland Haggerty Shaw](#) (1835-1907), married Robert Gould Shaw in 1861 and honeymooned at their summer estate, Vent Fort as it was known, before he led the first Black unit in the Civil War — the Massachusetts 54th Regiment — and died with them at Fort Wagner, S.C.

- [Leonard Constance Peters](#) (1850–1928), a skilled carpenter who came to Lenox to help build the Ethelwynd estate, owned several downtown businesses, and was a founder of the Lenox Savings Bank.
- [Serge Koussevitzky](#) (1874–1951), founder of the Tanglewood Music Festival that brought the Boston Symphony to the Berkshires starting in 1936 and spent summers at the Serenak estate.

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/central_berkshires/historic-lenox-cemetery-unveils-a-map-for-visitors-to-identify-gravestones-of-early-and-prominent-settlers/article_be612a7c-62c3-11ee-ac24-b70c5cac1543.html