

# Community Preservation Act Committee Proposal Request Form for FY 2016

**Date: December 10, 2014**

**Submitting Entity: Planning Department**

Contact Person: Nathaniel Malloy, Senior Planner

Contact Phone: (413) 259-3322

Contact Email: malloyn@amherstma.gov

## CPA funding category

Check all that apply

- Community Housing
- Open Space
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation

**Overview of Proposal:** – Please describe your project and your feasibility analysis

*The Town of Amherst is proposing to use CPA funds to hire a consultant with experience in construction and repair of stone Fountains to:*

- 1) *perform an assessment and engineering study of the Enos Cook Memorial Fountain in Sweetser Park,*
- 2) *prepare a scope of work and bid specifications for restoration of the Fountain, and*
- 3) *design and construct a cover to preserve and protect the Fountain during the winter.*

*An inspection of the Fountain has found increasing deterioration of the upper stone bowl, deterioration of the piping in the Fountain, and caulking and mortar issues in many of the stones.*

## **Describe how your request meets the CPA criteria:**

1. Description of funding needed including:
  - a. Documentation of cost estimates

*It is expected that the three tasks stated above—assessment & engineering study, preparation of bid specifications and scope of work, and design and construction of a protective cover—will not exceed \$20,000. The price is based on an estimate from a local architect and from conversations with Irving Slavid, Partner, President & Senior Conservator with Monument Conservation Collaborative (MCC). MCC completed the restoration of the Civil War Tablets and restored over 200 headstones in West Cemetery.*

- b. Other sources of funding, e.g., grants, self-funding, fund-raising

*The Sweetser Park Gift Account, which includes the \$20,000 donation from the Rotary Club for maintenance and repair, will be used to restore the Fountain according to the specifications developed by the consultant. The account can only be used for capital improvements and not for engineering studies. If the study determines that the restoration costs exceed the available budget in the Gift Account, the Town will seek additional CPA funds.*

- c. Timeline on how CPA funds, if awarded, would be spent including over multiple years
        - *July 1-31, 2015—Procure consultant*
        - *August 1- November 30—Complete task 1-3*
        - *December 1—Project complete*

- *January 1, 2016—Funds fully expended.*

2. Urgency of the Project, if any

*The Fountain went through a major renovation that ended in 1995. In the 20 years since this work, the Fountain has been annually maintained by cleaning out debris and washing the stones. However, town staff has noticed increased spalling and erosion of the Tennessee marble stones of the Fountain bowl and support column, and shifting of the stones that has caused offset loose joints. Town staff is hopeful that the Fountain will not need major restoration, but the age and deterioration of the stone may indicate that it is time for a comprehensive project.*

3. Estimated timeline from receipt of funds to Project completion

*All funds will be spent by January 1, 2016, unless weather and consultant availability delays the project until early spring 2016.*

4. Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources

*The Fountain and Sweetser Park are owned by the Town of Amherst.*

*The Enos Cook Memorial Fountain and sitting area is the centerpiece of Sweetser Park, a historically significant landscape that contributes to the Dickinson National Register District and the Dickinson Local Historic District. The Fountain and Park were developed with private funds as part of the beautification of the west end of Main Street in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1902, the private park west of Churchill Street was donated to the Town of Amherst by Luke Sweetser's children - J. Howards and Lucy Sweetser - as an "ornamental park" to bear their father's name. In 1910, another well-to-do Amherst merchant, Enos Foster Cook, donated funds for a Fountain in this new park. The Olmstead Brothers designed the Enos F. Cook Memorial Fountain, which was constructed in 1914 and restored in 1994 with funds from the Amherst Rotary Club.*

*Sweetser was president of the Amherst and Belchertown Railroad and served as a representative on the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth and as a member of the Prudential Committee of Amherst College. Enos Cook was in the stagecoach business and was one of the founders of the Amherst Savings Bank in 1864 where here served as president for 39 years. He was also one of the founders of the Amherst Water Supply Company, the Ornamental Tree Association and the Village Improvement Society. He lived in what is now 30 Boltwood Walk, the property just north of the Fountain that has been converted to condominiums and retail/commercial space.*

5. Population(s) to be served by the Project

*The Fountain is used by residents (especially families with young kids), tourists and visitors. Its highly visible location along Main Street in the Town Center en route to the Emily Dickinson Museum attracts thousands of people each year to the Fountain.*

6. How will the CPA investment in your property, facility or project be maintained over time?

*The Town maintains a Sweetser Park Gift Account that can be used for regular maintenance, and staff performs annual maintenance in the spring and fall as part of the operation of the Fountain.*

*The addition of a new cover that provides protection during the winter and severe weather is a critical component to the preservation of the Fountain.*

7. How the Project is prioritized by requesting Town committees or commissions?

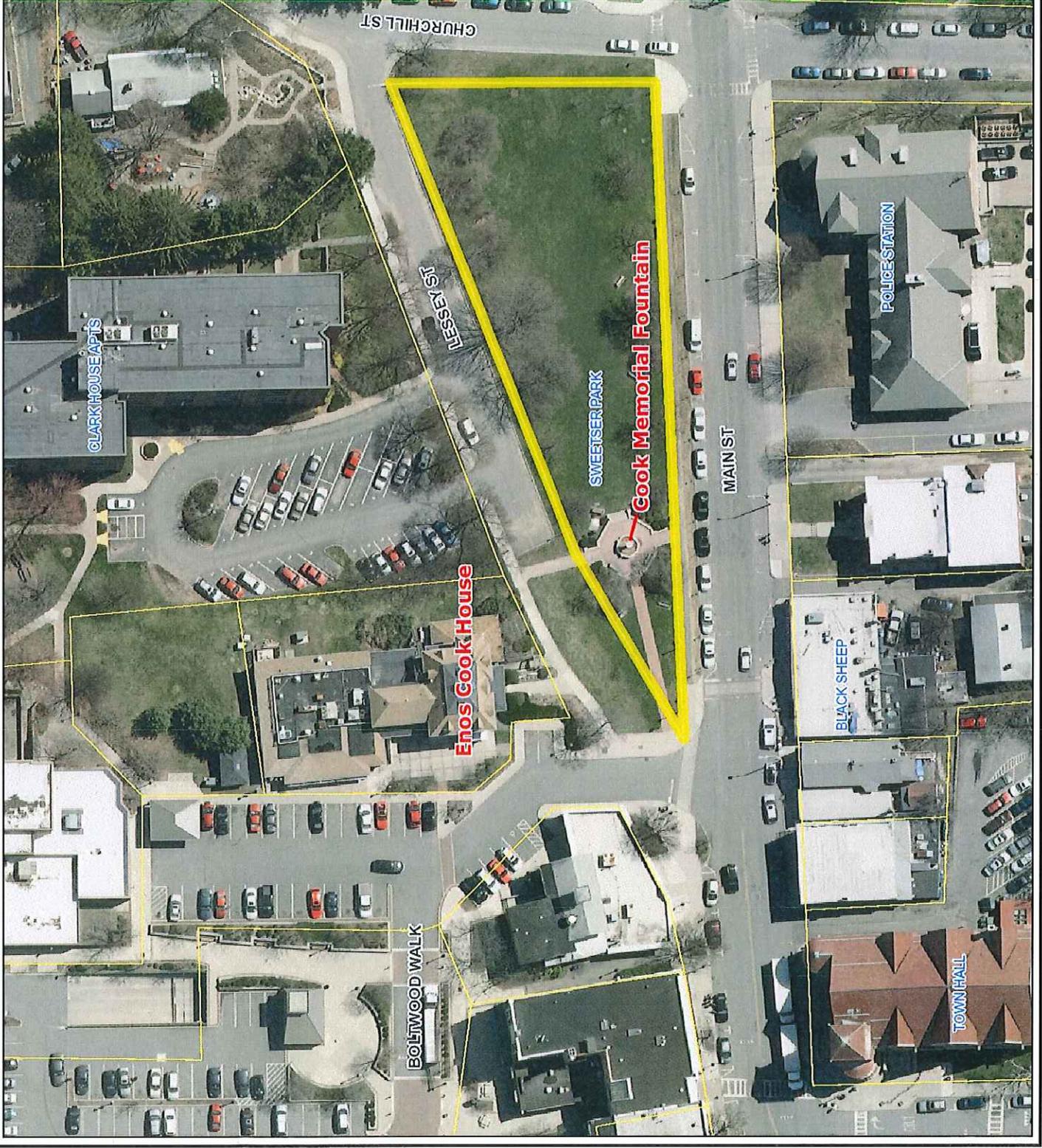
*The Amherst Historical Commission has yet to review and prioritize this request.*

8. Other information regarding the Project deemed necessary for CPAC

# Cook Memorial Fountain



- Property Map
- Property Lines
- Easements
- Adjacent Towns Parcels
- Basemap
- Trails
- Streets
- Local Roads
- Major Roads
- State Routes
- MassDOT Roads
- Limited Access Highway
- Multi-lane Hwy, not limited access
- Other Numbered Highway
- Major Road, Collector
- Minor Road, Arterial
- Ramp



Horizontal Datum: MA Stateplane Coordinate System, Zone 4151, NAD83, Feet; Vertical Datum: NAVD88, FT  
 Planimetric & topographic basemap compiled at 1"=40' scale from April, 2009 Aerial Photography, Parcels compiled to match the basemap; revisions are ongoing.

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It may not be adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or property conveyance purposes. Utility structures & underground utility locations are approximate & require field verification.

The Town of Amherst makes no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of these data, & does not assume any liability associated with the use or misuse of these data.



1" = 75 ft

## Enos Cook Memorial Fountain

(source: <http://onlyinthepublicofamherst.blogspot.com/>)

