Jones Library- Conservation of 6 Historic Paintings—$15,000
Staff at Special Collections has identified these six paintings as their highest priority for conservation, including five of the paintings that were donated to the Library in 1926 as part of the Burnett Collection—its first major art donation that started the Fine Arts Collection. As in all cases of private uses of CPA funds, an historic preservation restriction on the paintings will need to be transferred to the Town, which can require that they remain viewable to the public.

North Amherst Library Foundation Restoration—$10,000
The North Amherst Library is an historic landmark in the village center. The brick foundation is bulging and pulling away from the interior walls. Although presently there is no visible structural damage, the foundation needs to be restored before the structure’s integrity is compromised.

Jones Library Chimney Restoration—$113,000
The Jones Library is an historic landmark and anchor in the downtown with its distinctive design and rich history. The chimneys are becoming a safety risk, with several areas crumbling and becoming unstable. With their general integrity deteriorating, the Jones Library intends to restore its six chimneys. Work will include replacement and re-pointing of crowns, removal, replication and replacement of decorative caps, liner repairs, and veneer re-pointing. Use of staging and crane services are a large portion of the cost.

Kimball House Historic Preservation, 575 North East Street—$25,600
The $25,600 requested represents the final year of five years of payments to the Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) in compensation for the release of APR property as part of a larger land swap that preserved the pre-1815 Federal brick farmhouse and its immediate surroundings. This payment is obligated under a binding agreement with the state previously authorized by Town Meeting.

Archival Material Conservation/Restoration—$10,000
This is the 5th and final year of a 5-year archival project. That is conserving and restoring important historic Amherst documents kept by the Town Clerk’s office.
Consultant to facilitate the completion of 8 CPA funded Historical projects—$20,000
The proposal seeks to fund a onetime (part-time, non-benefitted) only position to manage and administer a number of complex historic preservation CPA projects that take time and special technical demands to complete. The Town routinely uses consultants to augment its services and provide professional, specialized knowledge and oversight to projects. The eight projects to be managed and possibly completed by this position range from increased lighting and signs at West Cemetery to the expansion of National Register Historic Districts.

Hawthorne House Feasibility Study—$10,000
The Amherst Historical Commission determined the house and large barn to be (historically) significant structures according to Section 13 of the Zoning Bylaw, and therefore issued a 12-month delay on any demolition of the structures. Conducting the analysis and structural study of only the house and large barn will help determine their future, whether they can be renovated into affordable housing, or if existing historic structural timbers could be adaptively reused in new construction.

Amherst Historical Society & Museum Structural and Feasibility Study—$35,000
The Historical Society is housed in the Strong House, which is not insulated or equipped with climate control to preserve the 1,500 plus artifacts stored onsite, and does not have the structural integrity to allow visitors on the second floor (only one or two staff people are allowed in the same room due to inadequate structural loading of the house). The project is the first step necessary to preserve and possibly expand the Society’s collection by determining the structural integrity of the Strong house, as well as its ability to withstand the impacts of any improvements—a rear addition, foundation work, etc.; the size and cost of climate-controlled storage, and cost estimates for the project.

Hope Church Roof Rehab, Foundation and Drainage Work—$45,000
Hope Community Church intends to restore the structure as part of its nomination for landmark status. Phase I includes roof and foundation work to stabilize the structure, preventing further damage and sealing the structure from the climate. Historically, Hope Community Church, and the AME Zion Church were the only places in town where colored persons could worship. The church is a cultural centerpiece in the Prospect-Gaylord National Historic Register District because of its history and distinctive architectural style: shingled building in Craftsman style. Historic figures associated with the Church include W.E.B. DuBois, who was instrumental in helping to raise funds for its beginning in 1912.

North Amherst Community Farm Emergency Repairs for Stabilization of Large Barn—$15,000 and Feasibility Study—$10,000
The barn is integral to the context of one of the last working farms in the center of Amherst. The barn has deteriorated significantly in the last 6-8 months, jeopardizing the structures' stability and likelihood of withstanding another year or two of New England winter. The project is the first step necessary to preserve the barn and possibly convert it into a space where events could be hosted.