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CITY OF AMESBURY 2023 MAR -6 P 3:48
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

SPONSORED BY: *Kassandra Gove* **BILL No. 2023- 019**
Kassandra Gove, Mayor

An Order to accept an in-kind donation of historic preservation consulting services for the Amesbury Public Library from Heritage Consulting Group, valued at \$15,000.

Summary: Heritage Consulting Group, located 6 Chestnut Steet, Amesbury has selected Amesbury as a recipient of their Giving Back program this year. The Amesbury Public Library will receive in-kind consulting work from Heritage Consulting Group to prepare and submit an individual National Register Nomination to the State Historic Preservation Office. This also includes Heritage Consulting Firm's attendance at a virtual State Review Board meeting to represent the nomination. This work has a total value of \$15,000. Per M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec 53 A1/2:

“A city council, with the mayor's approval if the charter so provides, or a board of selectmen, or prudential committee or town council may, in its sole discretion and authority, accept gifts of tangible personal property on behalf of the city, town or district from the federal government, a charitable foundation, private corporation, individual, or from the commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof, and may, in its sole discretion and authority, use said gifts, without specific appropriation thereof, for the purpose of such a gift or, if no restrictions are attached to the gift, for such other purposes as it deems advisable.”

Be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Amesbury City Council hereby accepts an in-kind donation from Heritage Consulting Group of historic preservation consulting services, which include preparation, submission, and support of an individual National Register Nomination to the State Historic Preservation Office on behalf of the Amesbury Public Library, valued at \$15,000 for use by the City of Amesbury, per M.G.L. Ch. 44, Sec 53 A1/2.



March 6, 2023

Meghan Fahey
Amesbury Public Library
149 Main St.
Amesbury, MA 01913
Via email: mfahey@amesburylibrary.org

RE: Amesbury Public Library, 149 Main St., Amesbury, Massachusetts

Dear Meghan:

We are pleased to present this proposal to complete a National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Amesbury Public Library, located at 149 Main St. in Amesbury, Massachusetts.

In 2012, marking our firm's 30th anniversary, we instituted a "Giving Back" program to honor and recognize historic resources by completing National Register Nominations pro bono. Under this program we have completed National Register Nominations for the Joe Frazier Gym in Philadelphia, Lawrence Halprin's Open Park Sequence in Portland, Oregon, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Jorgine Boomer and David & Gladys Wright Houses in Phoenix, among others. We would be delighted to include the Amesbury Public Library as part of our Giving Back program, and, to that end, propose to complete the nomination at no charge.

Our company has extensive experience with the National Register program, having listed scores of districts and hundreds of buildings across the United States. Our staff is well versed in the nuances of the National Register program and has demonstrated experience in developing clearly articulated and comprehensive nominations.

We are committed to this effort and will submit the Nomination to the Massachusetts Historical Commission this calendar year. Our team looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Amesbury Public Library in nominating this building in celebration of its architectural significance and tradition of service to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Hamilton".

Cindy Hamilton
President

WWW.HERITAGE-CONSULTING.COM

Mid-Atlantic
Philadelphia, PA

Midwest
Milwaukee, WI

New England
Amesbury, MA

MEMO

Date: 3/6/2023

To: Amesbury City Council

From: Meghan Fahey, Head of Archives, Amesbury Public Library

We are pleased to present the offer from Heritage Preservation to prepare and submit a National Register of Historic Places nomination on behalf of the Amesbury Public Library for our building located at 149 Main Street.

The library has served as the cultural and intellectual hub of our community for over 150 years. The current building was constructed largely by the dedicated work of private citizens committed to learning and literature. Set on the corner of our downtown district the library anchors our civic campus and welcomes thousands of patrons annually. For many, the architecture and design of this building inspire awe and encourage contemplation and appreciation.

Recognizing this cultural resource with a listing on the National Register will serve to honor our shared community treasure and raise awareness for the celebrated history of the building and its programs. A listing also opens doors to funding options not currently available to us, indicate to potential funders in our community to the integrity of this unique architectural gem and ensure generations to come will understand the relevance and significance of this building.

According to the National Park Service, the federal arm which manages the National Register program:

"the listing of a property in the National Register places no restrictions on what a non-federal owner may do with their property up to and including destruction, unless the property is involved in a project that receives Federal assistance, usually funding or licensing/permitting."

[https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=c5a07c14e9b695af2ef0cae29b4b4f23&mc=true&node=pt36.1.60&rgn=div5)

[idx?SID=c5a07c14e9b695af2ef0cae29b4b4f23&mc=true&node=pt36.1.60&rgn=div5](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=c5a07c14e9b695af2ef0cae29b4b4f23&mc=true&node=pt36.1.60&rgn=div5)"

As a staff and board our approach to this building is one that couples preservation with accessibility and program access.

Applying for the register and receiving a listing will help us raise awareness around this precious community resource and will improve our chances in receiving funds for preservation projects as it demonstrates our commitment to the integrity of the building. The library is treasured by Amesbury citizens. This process will also help us learn more about this important building and how we can ensure its survival for decades to come.