



TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY
APPLICATION FOR PROJECT FUNDING
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Applicants should file eight (8) copies of the completed Application and all accompanying documents with the Community Preservation Committee, Town Office Building, West Newbury MA 01985, and an electronic copy to cpc@wnewbury.org.

PROJECT NAME: Julian D Steele Historical Marker

PROJECT ADDRESS: West Newbury Town Hall, 491 Main St, West Newbury

MAP/LOT: Parcel R 14-400
<http://data.mvpc.org/WestNewburypdfs/PropertyCards/001769012019.pdf>

APPLICANT NAME: West Newbury Historical Commission
(Group or Committee Affiliation)

CONTACT PERSON: Elisa J Grammer

TELEPHONE: 703-855-5406

ADDRESS: 47 Coffin St, West Newbury

EMAIL: elisa.grammer@perennialmotion.com

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION CATEGORY:

(Please check all that apply)

- Community Housing
- Historic Preservation**
 - Eligible/On State Registry
 - Designated by Historical Commission**
- Open Space & Recreation

The Committee may require, as a condition for funding, that the applicant grant to the Town or other authorized grantee certain restrictions, including: preservation restrictions on rehabilitated or acquired historic resources, conservation restrictions on preserved or acquired lands, and deed restrictions on affordable housing projects. If applicable, the restriction shall be recorded at the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds.

REQUIRED NARRATIVE: PLEASE PROVIDE A NARRATIVE WHICH ADDRESSES THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS

PROJECT SUMMARY: Provide a description of the Project, including the property involved and its proposed

use.

The project will consist of a historical marker in the same shape and design as others in town to preserve the history of Julian Denegal Steele, the first African-American town moderator in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The marker, which is proposed to be located in the garden to the left of the Town Hall's front door, will read, "At this site in 1952 Julian D. Steele was unanimously elected town moderator, becoming the first African-American in the state to hold this position."

PUBLIC BENEFIT: Describe in detail the benefits West Newbury will receive from the Project and how the Project fulfills the Community Preservation Committee's Project Evaluation Criteria.

Present and future West Newbury residents will benefit from preserving the remarkable story of Julian D Steele, who was a state-wide and national leader in affordable housing, civil rights, and the Congregational Church—as well as being a civic leader in town and a good neighbor. A timeline of his life follows:


- 20 Oct 1906 Born in Savannah, Georgia*
- Abt 1915 Moved to Boston w/ family*
- Abt 1920 Attended Boston Latin School*
- 1928 Graduated Harvard University cum laude*
- Abt 1930 Graduate studies in social work in New York*
- 1932 Supt of RG Shaw Settlement House (social worker)*
- 1935 Director of Settlement Work at RG Shaw*
- Spring 1938 resigned as RG Shaw Settlement director in anticipation of interracial marriage*
- 7 May 1938 Married Mary (Polly) Bradley Dawes, blonde, blue-eyed Boston Brahmin & colleague at RG Shaw—she was disowned, sensational international news ensued*
- 1939 Named director of new Armstrong Hemenway Foundation in Boston focusing on affordable housing, social work*
- May 1943 Bought farm at 135 Crane Neck St., West Newbury—later explained that countryside is a good place to have a family*
- 1944 President of Boston NAACP, named to national NAACP Political Action Committee (throughout, Civil Rights speeches & advocacy)*
- 5 Sep 1944 Mary and Julian's daughter is born*
- Abt 1945 Active in WN Congregational Church; started men's study group*
- 1947 Participated in WN summer theater at Town Hall*
- Bef 1950 Served as moderator for wide-awake Town Hall Forum, weekly WN lecture series*

Boston Globe 2/28/1962
West Newbury Formula:
'A Touch of Humor Cools the Hotheads'
By BRYANT ROLLINS

"Timing, impartiality and cooperation are the moderator's keys to a successful town meeting. In proper combination, they are more effective than stirring oratory, swifter than the rap of a gavel and more just than strict Parliamentary laws."

Julian D. Steele is the speaker. And the 55-year-old veteran moderator of West Newbury knows whereof he speaks.

Since 1952 he has guided West Newbury's 1000 voters through their open town meetings without benefit of Robert's Rules of Order or Parliamentary Procedure.



COMMON SENSE ADVOCATE—Julian D. Steele

At the time of his election, Steele was, and still is, the only Negro moderator in the state. He is a cum laude graduate of Harvard and New York University's School of Social Work.

He is presently second in command in the New York office of the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency. In this capacity he has signed many of the bills which put into effect Boston's current urban renewal project.

Steele credits his background in social science as "a real asset in the moderating of town meetings.

"There are times when a little humor should be introduced into a meeting, for instance, when there is excessive wrangling over an issue. It's also important to know when and how to cut a speaker off if he is talking too long or being repetitious. This must be done with impartiality and without antagonizing anyone.

"The moderator also must have the confidence and complete co-operation of the meeting members. Otherwise they will not support him when he takes a stand on a ruling of procedure. This is how meetings sometime get out of control."

Steele commutes from his New York office to his 150-acre home on week-ends, and makes a special trip for the town meeting.

"In these nine years I've only had to miss one meeting. That was three years ago when my flight home was grounded by the blizzard."

He and his wife, the former Mary Bradley Dawes, have a 17-year-old daughter, Emilie, who will graduate from Westtown (Quaker) School in Westtown, Pa., in June.

"The town meeting is unique," says Steele with a grin. "People will approve a \$2 million school building after five minutes of discussion, then spend all afternoon debating a \$100 lamppost."

1950 Ran for WN School Committee
March 1952 Unanimously elected WN Town
Meeting Moderator—first black
moderator in Massachusetts & only black
voter in WN
1954 Elected first African American MA
Congregationalist Moderator-top layman
1954 Named to Massachusetts Parole Board
Aug 1960 Named head of Federal Housing
agency for New England area

1962 Profiled in Boston Globe as WN Town
Moderator—didn't miss meetings except
when weather didn't let him fly in
1968 Advocated affordable housing in speech to
Republican Governors' Association
1968 Sworn in as Commissioner of MA Dept of
Community Affairs—first black state
agency head
19 Jan 1970 Died at home in West Newbury

CONTROL OF SITE: Indicate whether the applicant owns or has a purchase agreement for the Project site. If the property is under agreement, include a description of the agreement and the timing and conditions. If the applicant does not have site control, explain.

The town owns Town Hall and the land upon which the marker is proposed to be placed.

FEASIBILITY: List all steps that may be required for completion of the Project, such as environmental assessment, zoning or other approvals, agreement on terms of any required conservation, affordability or historic preservation restrictions, and any other known issues. For projects that may impact abutters or the neighborhood, describe methods used to notify abutters of the proposal, and support or objections from those affected.

- 1) *The Historical Commission presented this proposal to the Selectmen on May 13, 2019 and received general approval, contingent on the specifics proposed in this application*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lQhg_bJhaQ
- 2) *The Historical Commission accepted this project at its March 20, 2019 meeting*
https://www.wnewbury.org/sites/westnewburyma/files/minutes/2019_03_20_minutes.pdf *and approved the specifics of this project at its May 16, 2019 meeting, contingent on meeting with the Public Works Director*
https://www.wnewbury.org/sites/westnewburyma/files/minutes/2019_05_16_minutes.pdf
- 3) *Members of the Commission met with DWP Director Wayne Amaral on May 28, 2019 at Town Hall and obtained his agreement and willingness to install the marker in front of Town Hall.*
- 4) *Members of the Commission who are also Directors of the West Newbury Garden Club informed the board of that organization (which maintains gardens where the sign is proposed to be erected) about this proposal in June of 2019—and met no objection.*
- 5) *The Historical Commission is working with the Training Field Historic District Commission to obtain approval for this historic marker.*

SUPPORT: Have the appropriate Town Boards and Commissions expressed support and/or approved the project? What is the nature and level of community support for this project?

Please see feasibility discussion above. Overall, the Historical Commission's monthly histories of existing historic markers have been popular and we would hope the addition of a marker that preserves the history of our own African American civic leader would receive strong support.

PROJECT TIMELINE: Describe the anticipated steps or phases for completion of the Project. Demonstrate whether the Project will be ready to proceed in the coming fiscal year. Will this be a multiyear project?

Assuming favorable determinations from the Community Preservation Committee and the town at fall town meeting, the following steps will be taken

- 1) *The Historical Commission will order a sign from the Sign Center in Haverhill, which has made the other historic markers in town*
- 2) *DPW will buy and install the post for the sign in the fall before the ground is frozen*
- 3) *In January 2020 the Historical Commission will release another Monthly History/Historical Minute telling the story of Julian Steele*
- 4) *We will install and unveil the marker in February 2020, which is Black History Month and is shortly after the 50th anniversary of Julian Steele’s death here in West Newbury.*

FUNDING:

A. Amount of Community Preservation Funding Requested:

\$ 600.00 _____

B. Include a full budget, including itemization of major components and breakdown of construction and maintenance costs. Describe the basis for your budget and the sources of information you used.

Construction

- *Sign cost—Abt \$250: Haverhill Sign Center. Based on recent \$175 cost for recent Quaker Cemetery replacement sign (see attached) plus adder for additional wording and possible cost increase with time*
- *Other materials—Abt \$100: Home Depot/ Lowes, etc. for post, nuts & bolts, possible sono tube, cement, etc, which may become more complex given tight space and unknown underground conditions*
- *Site preparation, installation labor—Abt \$250: Estimate. This may become more complex given tight space and unknown underground conditions*

Maintenance

These plastic signs have proven very durable. No maintenance has been required for the markers installed in the 2004-2005 time period.

C. Other Sources of Funding Available: If funding from other sources may be available for the Project, please complete the following table:

SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT REQUESTED	STATUS (COMMITTED Y/N IF NOT-WHEN)	CONTINGENT ON CP FUNDS (Y/N)

ATTACHMENTS: SEE GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT SUBMISSION AND ATTACHMENTS. YOU MAY BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROJECT

Ewa J Grommer

July 24, 2019 Applicant Signature and Date

For questions contact: cpc@wnewbury.org, 978-363-1100 X131



The Sign Center - Haverhill
 40 Orchard St
 Haverhill, MA 01830
 Ph: (978) 372-3721
 FAX: (978) 521-2192
 Email: signs@thesigncenter.com
 Web: http://www.thesigncenter.com

Invoice #: 126842

Entered By: Liz Busted
Created Date: 7/18/2019 9:13:41AM
Sale Date: 7/23/2019 10:50:15AM

ATTN: ELISA GRAMMER
WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 381 MAIN STREET
 West Newbury, MA 01985

Phone: (703) 855-5406

Email: elisa.grammer@perennialmotion.com

HISTORIC MARKER

Item #	Product	Quantity	Unit Price	Subtotal
1	Cut Vinyl Signs (on Flat Stock) Description: 18"H X 36"W X 3/4" WHITE PVC SINGLE-FACED SIGN W/BEVELED EDGES, TWO DRILLED HOLES AND FORWARD CUT 3M HIGH PERFORMANCE VINYL APPLIED FIRST SURFACE	1	\$175.00	\$175.00

Site of Quaker Meetinghouse erected 1825, torn down 1920.

- 1- 18 in x 36 in Single Sided sign(s) made from PVC
- Vinyl Colors are High Performance Black - 03,
- Text: Site of Quaker Meetinghouse erected 1825, torn down 1920.
- Custom Finishing
- Drill Holes: 2

Item #	Product	Quantity	Unit Price	Subtotal
2	Shipping & Delivery Description: PICK UP IN HAVERHILL • 1 Package(s)	1	\$0.00	\$0.00

Historical Commission
 Acct. No. 01-691-5400
 [Signature]
 Authorized Signature
 Date 7/23/2019
 Elise J Grammer

Ship To Address:

Subtotal: \$175.00
Total: \$175.00
Balance Due: \$175.00

Payment Terms: Net 30; Balance due in 30 days.

X _____
 If paying by credit card: (Cardholder's Signature).
 I agree to pay the above total amount according
 to the card issuer agreement.