

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

VOTE

Authorizing an amendment to the City of Lowell's prior Order approving CPC Recommendation to Fund the Preservation of Rollie's Farm.

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WHEREAS, on February 15, 2022, the City Council approved an Order relative to the funding of the preservation of Rollie's Farm, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, a modification in the CPC approval was given a positive recommendation by the CPC on March 23, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lowell has received a Land, Water, and Conservation Fund Grant in the amount of \$1 million which requires the City to demonstrate they have spent \$2 million on the project to receive the \$1 million reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a vote of the CPC provision that the City of Lowell be added as a co-sponsor to the project with \$1,000,000 of the original award appropriated to the City of Lowell to ensure the City can receive the full Land, Water, and Conservation Grant.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT VOTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL, as follows:

The following project requirement as part of the funding agreement be hereby amended by adding the City of Lowell as a co-sponsor of the project to allow the City to use the funds to purchase the conservation restriction on the property.



## **Order Approving CPC Recommendation to Fund the Preservation of Rollie’s Farm, Bond \$1,500,000**

**Whereas**, residents of the City of Lowell voted to accept the Community Preservation Act in November of 2019, in accordance with Chapter 267 of the Acts of 2000; and

**Whereas**, a Community Preservation Fund has been created using 1% of the City’s property tax levy, excluding: (1) the first \$100,000 of residential property value; (2) full commercial property value, and (3) property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low-income housing or low- or moderate-income senior housing; and

**Whereas**, a Community Preservation Committee was created by Ordinance of the City Council found in Chapter 9, Article XIV, §9-46 to §9-51; (“Ordinance”) and

**Whereas**, each fiscal year the Community Preservation Committee shall make recommendations to the City Council in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance and General Laws of Massachusetts in the form of a budget for appropriations and/or reserves from the Community Preservation Fund; and

**Whereas**, based on the Community Preservation Committee’s recommendation the City Council shall make such appropriations or reserves from the Community Preservation Fund that spend or set aside not less than 10% of the annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund for open space, not less than 10% of the annual revenues for historic preservation, not less than 10% of the annual revenues for community housing, and any remaining amount into budgeted reserves; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED**, that, pursuant to the recommendation of the Lowell Community Preservation Committee, the following FY2022 Community Preservation Act funds be appropriated for expenditure; and further that such expenditure, and any additional appropriations deemed necessary to carry out the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee, be under the Committee’s direction and in accordance with the terms of any grant agreement; memorandum of understanding; CPA Ordinance; and/or, General Laws of Massachusetts.

**Appropriation:**

Applicant: Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust

Project: Preservation of Rollie’s Farm to be used as an urban wildlife sanctuary, walking trails, and urban farm open to the public

Recommended Amount: \$1,500,000

**From: Loan Order**

**Bond**

**\$1,500,000**



**In City Council February 15, 2022, Read and referred to City Council Meeting of March 1, 2022.  
So Voted./s/Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk**

**In City Council March 1, 2022, Read twice and adopted on roll call vote 11 Yeas. So  
Voted./s/Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk**

**Approved by City Manager Eileen M. Donoghue March 2, 2022.**

**A true copy**

**ATTEST:**

**Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk**



March 3, 2023

Dear Chair Baacke and Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing to request an amendment to the CPA approval for Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust for the acquisition and preservation of Rollie's Farm (1413-1415 Varnum Ave) to be heard at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Community Preservation Committee meeting.

The City of Lowell has received a Land, Water, and Conservation Fund Grant in the amount of \$1 million which requires the City of Lowell to demonstrate they have spent \$2 million on the project to receive the \$1 million reimbursement. We are requesting the City of Lowell be added as a co-sponsor of the project to ensure the City can demonstrate they have spent the required money on the purchase of conservation restrictions for the project to receive the full Land, Water, and Conservation Grant.

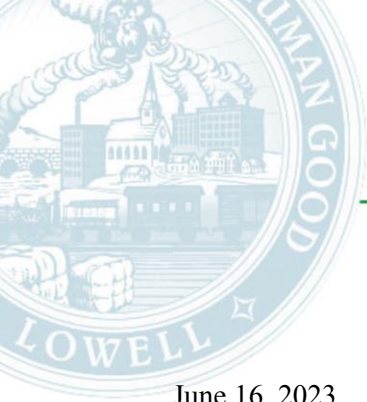
The proposal was approved for \$1.5 million during the 2021 CPA project cycle all allocated to the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust. We are requesting the approval be amended to add the City of Lowell as a grantee to allow the city to use the funds to purchase the conservation restriction on the property. The disbursement of the remaining \$500,000 in funds to the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust will occur after the state reimbursement is sent to the city.

I want to clarify that the CPA funds were received before the LWCF grant award was announced. We have all the funding for this project in place, but need to make this adjustment to align our existing funding with the requirements of the grant award.

I look forward to answering any questions you or your fellow Board members may have at an upcoming Community Preservation Committee meeting. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jane Calvin  
Executive Director



Thomas A. Golden, Jr.  
City Manager

June 16, 2023

Mayor Sokhary Chau  
And  
Members of the Lowell City Council

Dear Mayor Chau and Members of the Lowell City Council,

I respectfully request that the City Council vote to modify the Rollie's Farm Community Preservation Act approval. Lowell Parks and Conversation Trust was awarded \$1,500,000 of CPA funding to preserve the property at 1413-1415 Varnum Avenue (Rollie's Farm). Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust requested the City of Lowell be added as a co-sponsor with \$1,000,000 of the original award appropriated to the City of Lowell to ensure the City can receive the full Land, Water, and Conservation Grant. The modification received a positive recommendation at the March 23, 2023 Community Preservation Committee meeting.

Please find the modification request from Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust attached.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Golden, Jr.  
City Manager

CC: Yovani Baez-Rose, Assistant City Manager / DPD Director  
Lloyd DeJesus, Director of Development Services  
Francesca Cigliano, Senior Planner  
Dylan Ricker, Associate Planner