

CITY OF LOWELL
PETITION

TO THE
CITY COUNCIL

Waltham Weston Memorial
Highway
Highway Purchase Property
located at 8 Newbury Street
and establish a park
at location.

In City Council

August 14, 2018

Read and

Clerk

July 19, 2018

Lowell City Council
City Hall
375 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

Re: Residential Property at 8 Newbury Street, Lowell

Honorable City Council Members,

My name is Kathleen (Kate) Velten Hemenway, of 27 Fleming Street, which immediately abuts the rear half of a vacant residential property at 8 Newbury Street.

I would like to propose that the City of Lowell purchase or take over this property at 8 Newbury Street in Lowell's Highlands section for use as a "pocket" park.

This property includes a healthy 40' or 50' tall Pin Oak, which needs to be protected and preserved. There is also a healthy cherry tree on this property. Many homeowners in Lowell have been removing trees from their properties, to the detriment of our air quality and health, as well as the city's aesthetic. The preservation of the trees on this property, and the addition of one or two more would help offset these ongoing quality of life losses in Lowell.

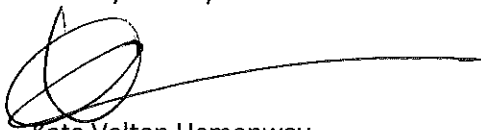
The house at 8 Newbury Street has been empty since late winter. While on the outside it looks stable, it is not in good shape. During the late winter storms of 2018, the basement flooded from the snowmelt nearly to overflowing. The fire department had to come to the house to drain it to prevent the possibility of it pouring out to neighbors' properties. In fact, due to failed pipes throughout the structure, there is, I am told, flooding and water damage on every floor of this two family house, which has been the domicile of just one man for at least 12 years. Further, for at least 10 years, until about two years ago, the attic dormer was collapsed and open to the weather.

The plot is very small and does not have, nor is there room for off-street parking.

This plot at 8 Newbury Street would serve well as a "pocket" park, a respite for local evening or morning strollers, parents with young children, local seniors who simply want to not be housebound. The city of Lowell provides small parks here and there, and they are a gift to us. This property appears to be the perfect next location for greening Lowell, and making our city ever more hospitable.

I am available at your convenience to talk with the City Council about this idea.

Thank you for your time and attention.



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