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HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Preservation Act Committee  
FROM: Historical Commission  
RE: FY2016 CPA Historic Preservation Project Proposals  
DATE: March 3, 2015

The Amherst Historical Commission heard presentations from and had follow up conversations with the organizations requesting FY2016 CPA funds for historic preservation projects. The commission acknowledges the withdrawal of Jewish Community of Amherst's (JCA) proposal to restore the belfry and steeple. The remaining proposals—Cook Memorial Fountain study, Historical Society painting and archeological survey, and Goodwin Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church assessment and archeological survey—seek funding for historically significant structures that help tell the story of the Town's history.

The construction and installation of the Cook Memorial Fountain over 100 years ago was part of a larger beautification movement in Amherst and the Nation that sought to modernize and enhance public spaces and parks. The Historical Society, located in the Strong House, is one of the oldest extant colonial structures in the Town Center that is also home to the community's artifacts. The Goodwin Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church is one of only seven individual properties in Amherst listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest "house of worship built by African American residents in Amherst" (CPA Proposal).

The Historical Commission recommends funding the proposals because the projects are necessary to preserve these important community resources. The assessments of the fountain and church are prudent, and often required, when seeking additional historic preservation funding. Similarly, the archeological surveys will help unearth the history of the sites, are recommended as part of best management practices for historic sites, and are prerequisites for future preservation work. The painting of the Strong House will preserve its exterior with a historically appropriate color.

Cc: Historical Commission