

Community Preservation Act Committee- Proposal Request Form for FY 2019

Project Title: New Boiler for Amherst Historical Society Simeon Strong House

CPA funding category: Check all that apply

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Community Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Open Space |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation |

Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$25,000

Submitting Entity: Amherst Historical Society

Contact Person: Georgia Barnhill

Phone: 413 835-0870

Email: gigi.barnhill@comcast.net (preferred) or info@amhersthistory.org

Please complete this form in its entirety and include the following in your proposal.

Overview of Proposal: Please describe your project and your feasibility analysis

The Amherst Historical Society currently has two boilers to meet the heating needs at the Simeon Strong House. The main boiler used to heat this facility is in dire need of replacement. This boiler is estimated to be 70 or more years old and, while converted to oil, originally used coal as the fuel source. Given its age, this boiler is living on borrowed time. Its age also means that it is very inefficient in its fuel use—about 70%, a figure not acceptable today and one that means substantially increased fuel costs for the Historical Society. We have an additional gas-fired boiler that serves the apartment located above our gallery area (we have used this space as an office area in the past).

Describe how your request meets the CPA criteria:

This project is essential to maintain the historic Simeon Strong House. As we investigated our options for replacing the oil furnace, we discovered that both boilers are attached to a single smoke pipe—a circumstance that is dangerous and, possibly, illegal. Also, gas as a fuel source is far more explosive than oil; an ongoing concern for the Society's consulting curator, Marianne Curling. For the safety and preservation of the Simeon Strong House, the gas to the smaller boiler that serves the apartment should be disconnected and one larger boiler should serve the entire structure. The Simeon Strong House and its collections are irreplaceable. Replacing the current two-burner heating system will rectify this unacceptable situation.

1. Description of funding needed, including:

a. Documentation of cost estimates, budget

Sumner Heating Company, Inc. has reviewed all aspects of the 2 heating systems in use in the Strong House and is preparing a detailed budget. They estimate that a \$25,000 budget for materials and labor will allow us to move to a single oil-fired efficient furnace as the heat source.

b. Other sources of funding, e.g., grants, self-funding, fund-raising

The financial scope of the project is beyond the means of the Historical Society. Current fund-raising barely meets the needs of keeping the Historical Society and its collections open to the public.

c. Timeline on how CPA funds would be spent, including over multiple years

This project would be completed during the summer of 2018, beginning as soon as possible after July 1.

2. Urgency of the Project, if any.

As noted above, the current boiler is ancient, and we are running gas and oil fired systems simultaneously. This project is of immediate importance.

3. Estimated timeline from receipt of funds to Project completion.

If funds are made available in July 2018, the project would be completed within two to three months.

4. Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources.

Replacing the gas-fired boiler will remove a potential source of explosion—a rare but disastrous occurrence. Also, having the aged oil furnace breakdown could lead to frozen pipes and other physical damage to the Strong House—we are operating on borrowed time.

5. Population(s) to be served by the Project.

The Historical Society is open to the public, free of charge. Visitation has been climbing steadily over the past few years during the open hours, May to early December, and for programs, events and exhibitions. We are pleased to be part of the Cultural District and to participate as a venue for Arts Night Plus.

6. How will the CPA investment in your property, facility or project be maintained over time?

Turner Oil will regularly service the boiler.

7. Which relevant Town committees and/or commissions are you working with?

Historical Commission

8. Other information regarding the Project deemed necessary for CPAC.