

This project is proposed by the Community Preservation Committee. It has the support of the Hanover School Committee, School Administration, and the Hanover Historical Commission.

The Sylvester High School building qualifies for Community Preservation funding for the rehabilitation of a historic resource. The Sylvester building is significant in the history, architecture, and culture of the Town of Hanover.

Sylvester's size, location, and heritage make it an ideal municipal building to provide a suitable headquarters for Hanover's School Administration offices and other community uses as to be determined in this project. It is anticipated that other community uses could include needed additional literacy services, special education services, adult education, office space for community groups, function space, the Hanover Food Pantry, an arts venue, the school store, and functional space for everything that is currently operating out of Salmond including the FACE program which would benefit from having access to the athletic complex at B. Everett Hall Field.

This project will contribute to the successful rehabilitation of the Sylvester building and also preserve the building as an original part of our National Historic District and Hanover Center school campus which was developed in 1927, on the 200th Anniversary of the Town's incorporation, for Hanover's first high school building.

This project falls within the mission of the Community Preservation Committee as outlined in the Community preservation Act to designate funds for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources of which the Sylvester High School building is a significant one.

The benefits of this project for the community are far reaching and will be felt at the community level. Not only does this project allow the Town to meet goals of the 2018 Master Plan it will also align with the vision for the Sylvester Learning Center as presented on 1/22/2020 at Hanover High School to representatives from various Boards and Committees. The vision statement for the Sylvester Learning Center provides a basis for CPC's desire to fund the renovations at Sylvester. This vision statement, and site visits to the building, allowed us to appreciate the beauty of the historic structure, understand its connection to the history of Hanover, and see that it is an important part of the educational, recreational, and civic space that still exists in Hanover Center today.

This project is to develop a plan, produce a design and engineering specifications, and begin work to bring this building into compliance with Architectural Access Board regulations. While this funding will be able to move this project forward significantly it is anticipated that this funding request will lead to a larger CPA request to complete the rehabilitation work to be planned. A Feasibility Design Estimate produced on 11/1/2019 by PM&C, a construction cost estimator, estimated the cost of needed improvements to be \$3,960,789. This estimate includes a new handicap accessible entrance and elevator to provide access to all levels of the building, new unisex bathrooms, lighting and electrical improvements, fire protection, and office space reconfiguration.

This project can achieve additional community benefits by preserving Hanover's central and historic school campus and adding functionality to a structure that will serve Hanover as a community center for education, recreation, and civic engagement. Moving this project forward

could also create economic development opportunities in our commercial district along Route 53 and adjacent to many local businesses by adding housing in an area recommended in the 2018 Master Plan.

The Community Preservation Committee has experience successfully managing historic preservation projects in Hanover. This project will also have additional oversight to ensure its success by a committee to be formed of one (1) Selectmen, the Town Manager or Town Planner, one (1) School Committee Member, School Superintendent, one (1) Historic Commission Member, one (1) Planning Board Member, one (1) Affordable Housing Trust Member, one (1) Citizen at Large, and two (2) CPC Members.

