



## American Legion Post 139

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September 21, 2022

Ayer Town Hall  
Attn: Janet Providakes, Chair – Ayer Community Preservation Committee (CPC)  
One Main Street  
Ayer, MA 01432

Re: Letter of Support to fund the Restoration/Preservation of the (1943) Historic Ayer Howitzer at Ayer Town Hall

Ms. Providakes,

On behalf of the Joseph P. Connors American Legion Post 139, I am writing to express our support for the application by the Town of Ayer seeking local Community Preservation Act support to fund the restoration, renovation, and preservation of the (1943) 105MM M3 Howitzer, which serves as a historic memorial to Staff Sergeant Leon A. Cote (1919-1944) and all Ayer residents that served in the United States Military through the generations.

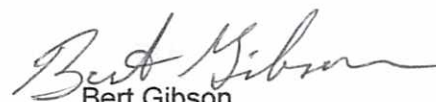
Located on the front grounds of Historic Ayer Town Hall, the (1943) Howitzer was gifted to the Town of Ayer in (1985) by the Cote Family of Ayer, having been brought from Ft. Devens. The (1943) Howitzer is a local heritage "touchstone" memorializing the shared and long-standing cultural, social, economic, military and civic heritage between the Town of Ayer and the former Fort Devens (1917-1996).

The proposed heritage restoration/preservation project also includes the design and construction of a new concrete and granite-block base pad, which will serve to preserve the restored Howitzer for generations to come.

Finally, the original (1985) commemorative bronze plaque to Staff Sergeant Cote and All Ayer Military affixed to the original granite monument block will be properly placed to stand with the restored Howitzer and new base pad structure on the front grounds of Historic Ayer Town Hall.

American Legion Post 139 believes this to be a worthy local historic preservation project for the Town of Ayer.

Very Respectfully,

  
Bert Gibson  
Commander  
American Legion Post 139  
Ayer, Massachusetts

