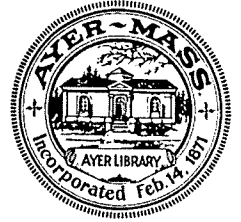


**Office of the Select Board  
Office of the Town Manager**

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**Town of Ayer| Ayer Town Hall| 1 Main Street| Ayer, MA 01432|978-772-8220| [www.ayer.ma.us](http://www.ayer.ma.us)**

September 20, 2022

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

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

Dear Ms. Providakes,

The Ayer Select Board is writing this letter in strong 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 Ft. 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.

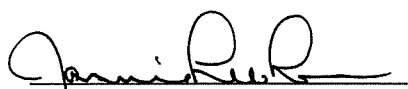
The project will also feature exterior lighting to illuminate this important piece of Ayer’s history at night. Finally, the original (1985) commemorative bronze plaque to Staff Sergeant Cote & All Ayer Military affixed to the original granite monument block will be properly placed to stand with the restored Howitzer and new base pad structure on the front grounds of Historic Ayer Town Hall.

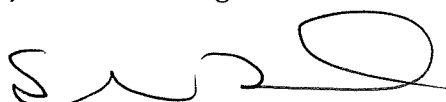
The Select Board supports this important project as it is a perfect example of the purpose and intent of Community Preservation Funds in terms of the historic preservation of this important piece of Ayer’s history and military heritage. This project application represents a shared partnership between the Town of Ayer and the Community Preservation Committee in that the Town will fund \$8,000 of the total project costs with the application seeking \$31,000 from Community Preservation funds. With the support of the Community Preservation Committee, this project will be completed by an important collaboration of the CPC Committee; the Ayer Office of Community and Economic Development; the Ayer Facilities Department; and the Town Manager’s Office.

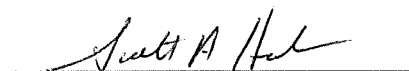
We thank you for your consideration and support of this important project application. The restoration of the 1943 Howitzer will ensure the preservation of this important part of our Town's history and will ensure that future generations will learn and appreciate the Town's history and military heritage. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Community Preservation Committee for all your dedicated, hard work with so many important projects over the years that have been made possible by CPC Funds.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Jannice L. Livingston, Chair

  
Shaun C. Copeland, Vice Chair

  
Scott A. Houde, Clerk

The Ayer Select Board