



Freedom's  
Way NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA

September 25, 2022

Ayer Town Hall  
Attn: 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

Ms. Providakes,

On behalf of Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, I am writing to express our support for the application by the Town of Ayer seeking local Community Preservation Act funds for 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 includes the design and construction of a new concrete and granite-block base pad to preserve the restored Howitzer. In addition, 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.

Designated as a National Heritage Area in 2009, Freedom's Way National Heritage Area connects the people and places of 45 communities in Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire through preservation, conservation, and educational initiatives that protect, promote and interpret their natural, cultural and historical resources. As such, we support the important restoration/preservation of the (1943) 105MM M3 Howitzer sited on the lawn of Ayer's Town Hall as a memorial to those who served in the United States Military.

Kind regards,

Patrice Todisco  
Executive Director