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CITY OF DANBURY
155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

(203) 797-4652
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Mark D. Boughton via the City Council
FROM: David W. St. Hilaire, Director of Finance *JK*
DATE: September 28, 2015
SUBJECT: Certification of Funds -- Octagon House Study

CERTIFICATION

The attached memo from Deputy Planning Director Sharon Calitro requests approval to apply to the CT Historic Trust Preservation to fund a feasibility study for the Octagon House on Spring Street.

I hereby certify the availability of up to \$20,000 to fund the required City share of this project through the Open Space Bond funding. These funds are available under Openspace.9999-7000.0380.

Should you have any questions, please call me at 797-4652.



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PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT
(203) 797-4525
(203) 797-4586 (FAX)

September 28, 2015

To: Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Members of City Council

From: Sharon B. Calitro, Deputy Planning Director *SB*

Re: Feasibility Study for Rehabilitation of the Historic Octagon House

As you know, the City recently purchased the Octagon House on Spring Street. The House, constructed in 1853, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is quite unique in its design. It is one of only a handful of eight-sided homes remaining in Connecticut.

This historic House was purchased with the intent to rehabilitate it for use as the public offices. It is currently in a state of disrepair. The parcel comprises approximately .43 acres of land with access from both Spring and Elm Streets.

The CT Trust for Historic Preservation has funds available to help cover costs for the preparation of a feasibility study to assess the condition of the structure and provide schematic designs for its rehabilitation through their Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grants (HPTAG) program. We estimate the cost for this feasibility study to be \$40,000. Successful applicants will be eligible for a grant of up to \$ 20,000. It will require an equal City match.

We are requesting approval to proceed with the HPTAG application process and the allocation of \$20,000 as the City's match. We are not requesting funding at this time for the preparation of engineering plans or bid documents or the actual rehabilitation work. Those tasks will come later. The CT Trust has advised us that additional HPTAG funds are available for these latter phases as well.

We believe that preservation through rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Octagon House will achieve several Visions of the City. It represents a strong commitment by the City to continue to preserve and re-use historic structures and to support the revitalization of critical inner-city neighborhoods. In this case, City revitalization efforts have been ongoing. The City purchase of this property has already sparked additional interest by nearby landowners to improve and develop their properties. This project has also been vetted and approved by the Office of Project Excellence Steering Committee.

- c: Jean Natale, Legislative Assistant
- David St. Hilaire, Director of Finance
- Antonio Iadarola, P.E., Director of Public Works
- Farid Khouri, P.E., City Engineer
- Stephen Nocera, Director, Office of Project Excellence



RESOLUTION

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OCTOBER 6, A.D. 2015

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation has grant funds available to help cover the costs for preparation of a feasibility study which would enable the City to assess the condition of Octagon House structure and to provide schematic designs for its future rehabilitation. The City intends to apply for a grant through the Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grants program to enable it to prepare said study and designs which are necessary for future rehabilitation of the Octagon House located on Spring Street; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amount of funding under the grant is \$20,000.00, with matching funds from the City, for a total project amount of \$40,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding will be used to help cover costs for the preparation of a feasibility study to assess the condition of the structure of the Octagon House and to provide schematic designs for its rehabilitation; and is part of a phased plan to rehabilitate the building, and to thereby support revitalization of critical inner city neighborhoods; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mark D. Boughton, Mayor of the City of Danbury, is hereby authorized to sign any documents necessary to effectuate said grant, and to execute on behalf of the City of Danbury all required documents, and to take all actions necessary to effectuate the purposes thereof.