

STEP ONE

TOWN OF MIDDLEBOROUGH APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ELIGIBILITY

NOTE: This application step enables the CPC to review the request to ensure eligibility and offer guidance. If eligible, Step 2 - Application for Funding must be completed.

Date: June 2012

Project Title: Historic Pipe Organ Preservation Project

Applicant/Contact Person: Jeffrey Stevens

Name of Organization: First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough

Address: 25 North Main Street Telephone: 508-947-1935

Email: stevens7981@comcast.net

CPA Category (check all that apply): Open Space Historic Preservation
 Recreation Community Housing

CPA Purpose (check all that apply) Acquire Create
 Preserve Support
 Rehabilitate / Restore

CPA Funding Requested: \$ 6,000.00 Total Project Cost: \$ 10,000.00

Project Description: Please provide a brief project description below. Include a brief description of how your project accomplishes the goals of the CPA and include an estimated budget. Please include supporting materials as necessary.

Proposed Time Line: (As a separate attachment, please submit a project implementation schedule including anticipated start and end dates, initiation and completion dates of key milestones, etc.)

Sources of financial sustainability for future maintenance: (As a separate attachment, please submit documentation of financial sustainability including anticipated resources for future maintenance)

Other key elements (As a separate attachment, please submit documentation of community support such as endorsements from town permitting boards or commissions, community organizations, abutters, etc.)

Submit 10 copies and one (1) compact disk containing the electronic copy of the application and all supporting documents of the completed eligibility application to:

Community Preservation Committee Middleborough Town Hall Annex 20 Center Street Middleborough, MA 02346

Project Information -

The members of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough consider our pipe organ to have both historic and artistic significance, and wish to preserve it for the future.

The beautiful instrument at 25 South Main St. is an original Woodberry and Harris tracker organ with 61 notes and five stops each on two keyboards (great and swell), and 27 notes in a flat pedal-board. This Boston made instrument was built and installed in the back wall of the chancel in 1890. After electricity became available, the manual pump action for the bellows was replaced by an electric motor. There were some renovations in 1962 by Roche Organ Company, including replacing a consistently out-of-tune trumpet stop with an oboe stop.

This historic organ is basically in its original mechanical condition and needs refurbishing in order to keep it running. The key action is noisy because the bushings all need to be replaced. The bellows have ripped twice in the last 3 years, and are currently held together with tape. There are many tiny leather parts such as key-tails and couplers that are starting to give way. The brass trackers and pull-down wires all need to be replaced. Because of the layout of this intricate assembly, it is far easier and cheaper to replace all these worn parts at the same time.

The cost of refurbishing the organ is \$10,000.

We believe this project reflects the first goal listed under Community Preservation Goals:

"Goal 1: Acquire, preserve, rehabilitate and/or restore and provide permanent protection for historic, cultural, architectural or archaeological resources of significance, especially those that are threatened"

This historic musical instrument is a significant resource and an important piece of our community's historic past. It was installed 122 years ago. It is a significant part of our cultural history, providing music for generations of Middleborough's citizens. It is threatened in a number of ways. The mechanical connections throughout the instrument need to be upgraded with new materials to keep this instrument available for another 122 years. Without this substantial intervention, this instrument will soon fail in one of any number of ways. Our community recently lost the historic organ in the Central Congregational Church; let us not lose this one.

Timeline:

It is expected that this project would be completed within three months of receiving funding.

Sustainability:

This instrument has been maintained by the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleborough for over 120 years. The annual budget of the Society (over \$130,000.00) has historically included funding for general maintenance. The Society will continue its support for this historic musical instrument.