

REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA

TIVERTON TOWN COUNCIL

1. Name of Department, Organization or Person:

Councilor Donna J Cook

2. Subject of Agenda Request:

Discussion and possible vote by the Council to consider allocating APRA funds to buy historic site markers to promote awareness of the Town's historic areas.

3. Explain the Nature of The Request:

A- As the liaison for the Tiverton Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, Chair Susan Anderson, contacted me regarding the use of APRA funds for the historic site markers in promoting Tiverton's history as a Preserve America community.

B- Attached is a letter applying for a grant dated February 10, 2016 for this purpose.

C- Letter from THPAC Chair Susan Anderson

D- TA Cotta did request input, ideas and suggestions from the Councilors for uses of APRA funds. Agenda 2/14/22.

SIGNATURE: Councilor Donna J Cook **DATE:** 4/5/22

Please Note: Unless otherwise instructed, this request will be a public document. A copy of this request will be given to each Councilor prior to the meeting and, if applicable, to any appropriate department, board, commission, and/or officer.

Agenda items must be submitted to the Town Clerk's office before 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday prior to the meeting date.

TOWN OF TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND

OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

February 10, 2016

The Rhode Island Foundation
One Union Station
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Submitted with grant application

To grant application reviewers:

I write to support the Town of Tiverton's Historic Preservation Advisory Committee's grant application submitted to you this week. The Committee's initiative has the full support of the Town administration.

Dotted with significant sites from King Phillip's War and the Revolutionary War, the Town of Tiverton is a notable contributor to early American history and the overall impact of Newport County during that time period. Many of the architectural artifacts from that time have been lost due to various natural and man-made disasters over the years. The Committee in particular and the Town in general are working hard to preserve what remains. The work begins with highlighting the accomplishments of individuals and the Tiverton community that have made Newport County a special part of Rhode Island.

The Committee endeavors to place markers at selected historic locations around town to draw attention to the assets and their impact on the Town. A recurring theme of the Tiverton Comprehensive Community Plan is that, "Tiverton's historic buildings and areas are at the core of the Town's character." Thus, this project implements the Town's plan to emphasize its history. It is my plan to support the initiative through a map/brochure and the Town's website going forward as part of a multifaceted plan to celebrate the Town's unique sense of place.

Across Rhode Island, history themed signage has played an important role in the effort to demonstrate that the State's size has nothing to do with its impact on the history of the nation. The John H. Chafee Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor began its journey toward national park status by placing signs throughout its territory. Sites people passed every day but had little knowledge of came to new life; residents developed a better understanding of significant sites and how they fit together to form the fabric of their community. The role of this effort in developing identity and pride of place should not be underestimated. It is this positive effect that we are trying to recreate in Tiverton.

For the reasons stated above, it is my sincere hope that the Tiverton Historic Preservation Advisory Committee's application will be awarded funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Wojcik

Chair Susan Anderson writes:

In addition to two signs on Main Road designating the entrance to the Osborn-Bennet National Register Historic District at the northern and southern ends, there are historic site markers similar to the two at Grinnell's for the Stone Bridge history that we've been wanting to place around town. These would be placed at Stone Bridge, Bridgeport/Nanaquaket, The Gut, Eagleville, Tiverton Four Corners, Tiverton Heights, Fogland/Neck Rd.

The cost for the 2 signs at Grinnell's was about \$3600 in December 2018. Estimating the amount of history to be placed on the site markers for the 7 sites, I think this might take 8 or 9 signs (2 for 4 Corners and possibly 2 for Stone Bridge - which is NOT covering the bridge itself).

The cost for the National Register signs estimated by Tiverton Sign Shop was about \$5000 a few years ago - but I haven't asked him for a current price yet.

An essential component of its character is the history of a community. The visible Newport County and its history is an attractive destination for tourists. After visiting the many varied venues in Newport, visitors are often drawn or encouraged to visit the more rural destinations nearby on the other side of the Sakonnet River. Tiverton with its rich historic legacy and many attractive open spaces is becoming more and more popular. Tiverton became a Preserve America Community in 2011 after three years of hard work and documentation by this Board.

Tiverton is home to Fort Barton and Stone Bridge, an essential area during the Revolutionary War and very popular destinations. There are, however, many more - and less well known - points of interest that to the casual visitor are not so obvious. Unfortunately, Tiverton has not had the funds to invest in explanatory signage at the major historic locations. It is the mission of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board to broaden the knowledge of Tiverton's history, according to the Comprehensive Plan.

It would be a wise economic decision to install such signage that will connect Tiverton's historic legacy into the greater picture of the history of Newport County. Historic tourism is a proven revenue enhancer and one of the major revenue sources for Rhode Island. Tiverton could use the boost that brings the revenue of added commercial traffic, as well as the added revenue of the meal and bed tax.

I have attached a copy of the letter former Town Administrator Wojcik wrote that was submitted for a grant that we tried to get for this same purpose years ago, but did not receive. And since then, we have not found any grants that we can apply for because we are not a non-profit entity and/or do not meet the grant requirements for our purpose.

I am hoping there might be some funding from this federal money that we can use for historic site markers - and the two National Register signs - and hope you can help as our liaison to the Town Council.

Thanks,
Sue