



Town of Milton

Application for Community Preservation Funding

Project Title: Milton Lower Neponset River Estuary Project
Name of Contact: Arthur J. Doyle
Name of Organization: Milton Conservation Commission
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CPA Category (check all that apply) ☐ Community Housing ☒ Recreation
☐ Historic Preservation ☒ Open Space

CPA Funding Requested: \$ 75,000 **Total Project Cost:** \$ 75,000

Please attach answers to the following questions. Include supporting materials as necessary.

1. **Project Description:** Please give a detailed project description, including specific objectives.
2. **Goals:** How does this project accomplish the goals of the CPA: (*See guidelines for Project Submission in Milton's CPC Plan for general criteria.*)
3. **Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for critical milestones? When do you anticipate completion of project?
4. **Budget:** Please provide a full project budget including the following information, as applicable:
 - a. Total amount of the project cost, with itemization of major components.
 - b. Additional funding sources. Please include those that are available, committed, or under consideration.
 - c. Provide basis for your budget and sources used in estimation.
5. **Support:** Please provide letters of support: 1.) Town Boards and Commissions 2) Milton Residents and Outreach to the Community

Application for Community Preservation Funding

Milton Lower Neponset River Estuary Project

1. **Project Description:** Submitted on behalf of the Milton Conservation Commission to the Milton Planning and Community Development Department on May 26, 2023 for this multi-year Community Preservation Act initiative. A second document was forwarded to the CPC with additional historic and granular information from the CPC's discussion of the proposal on July 12, 2023. Both documents are included along with other related materials.
2. **Goals:** The overarching goal is to follow on the order of taking authorized at Town Meeting on March 13, 1965 *for the promotion and development of natural resources and for the preservation of open space*. Attention through the proposal's content to this long overlooked major Milton natural resource is highly consistent with the CPA goals of preserving open space and natural resources as well as preserving and rehabilitating land for recreational use. This is a time sensitive initiative considering the importance of marshland in the mitigation of the impacts of climate change and environmental sustainability. Also, it allows for broadened access to passive recreation opportunities and an enhancement of quality of life for the public.

The first year (FY 2024-05) goals focus primarily on surveying and wetland delineations. This initial phase to a multi-year process is foundational to the health and integrity of Milton's Lower Neponset River Estuary marsh and its adjacent lands. The state's Wetland Protection Act Regulations pertaining to coastal wetlands notes that salt marshes are significant to the protection of marine fisheries, the prevention of pollution, storm damage prevention, and possible ground water supply resourcing. The documentation from these activities would provide the town with contemporary records and information for its own purposes as well as for engagement with other municipalities, entities, and participation in grant opportunities at the state and federal levels of government.

- a. **Surveying:** Survey maps of Milton's Lower Neponset River Estuary and adjacent town land are dated, with the most recent survey almost sixty

b. Additional funding sources.

Additional funding sources are not included in the initial year budget. However, as a multi-year endeavor that will engage interaction with additional parties, funds related to coastal resource protection and related purposes will be sought.

c. Basis for budget and sources used in estimates.

The initial year budget was developed with the firm Environmental Partners (<https://www.envpartners.com>) under the auspices of Milton DPW Director Chase Berkeley.

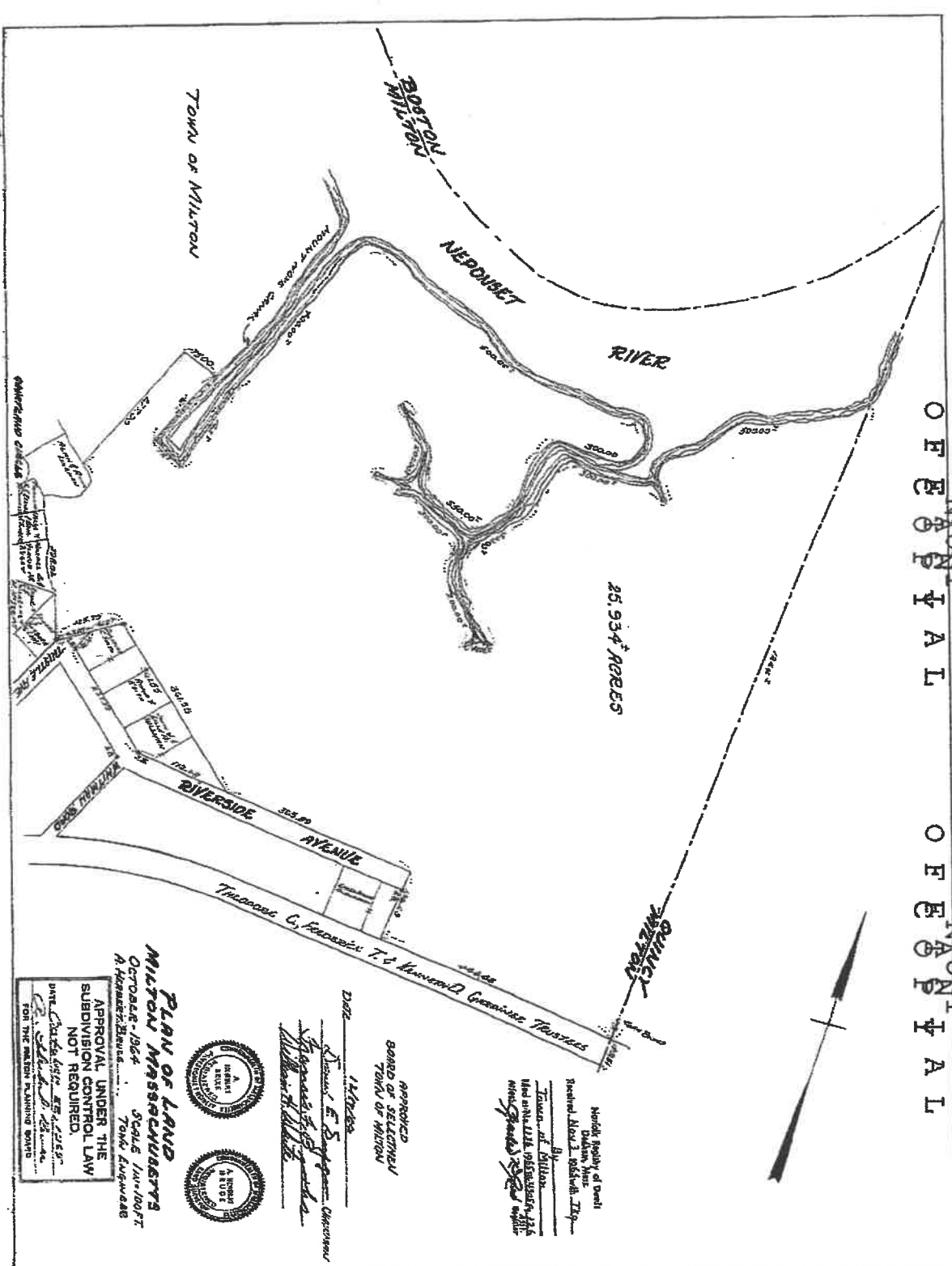
5. Support:

- a. The Milton Conservation Commission voted its endorsement of the Milton Lower Neponset River Estuary Project proposal at its public meeting of July 11, 2023.
- b. The Milton Climate Action Planning Committee submitted its written endorsement of the proposed project to the CPC on August 27, 2023.
- c. A letter of support from the Executive Director of the Neponset River Watershed Association confirming support for the initiative was received on September 29, 2023.

CPA Project Description: Milton Neponset River Estuary Project

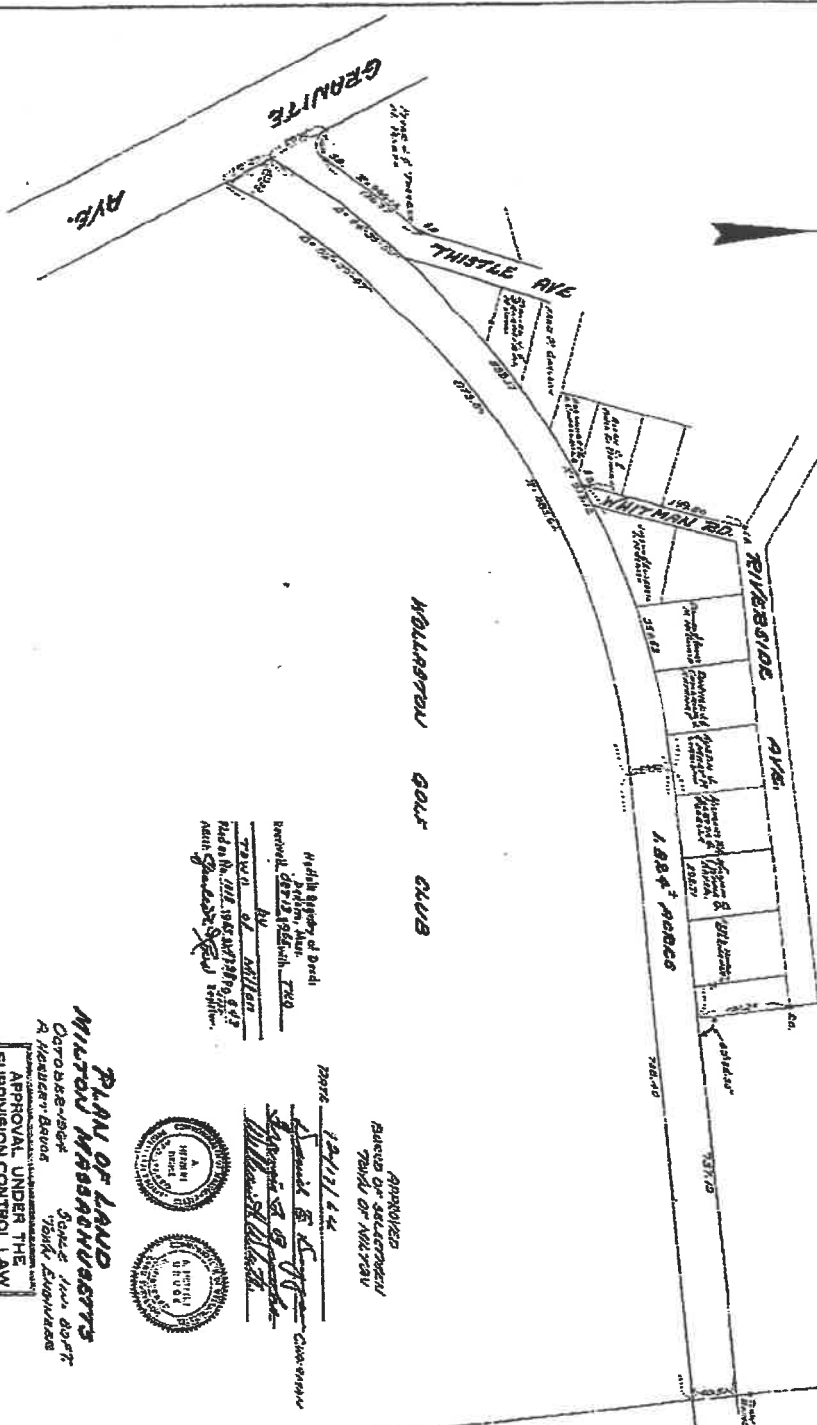
A significant portion of the lower Neponset River tidal estuary is located in Milton off Granite Avenue in the vicinity of Thistle and Riverside Avenues adjacent to Quincy and opposite Boston's waterfront recreational resources such as Pope John Paul II Park. Important in agriculture, maritime commerce, and quarried granite transportation during past centuries, today's estuary offers new opportunities consistent with CPA goals. Included would be activities such as hiking along previous rail lines, something now informally done on unimproved and unmarked trails, and remarkable vistas for photography, art, and personal enjoyment. Ecologically rich, the estuary represents a field observatory and educational workroom for environmental science, broadened health and recreational opportunities such as canoeing and kayaking, and an important laboratory for monitoring and mitigating the impacts of climate change. This application for Community Preservation Eligibility proposes researching, surveying, identifying, and delineating all parcels in the Milton portion of the estuary, including any owned by the Milton Conservation Commission or other municipal units of Milton as well as privately held parcels. Doing so will be an essential first phase to a multi-year planning and implementation project that will involve collaboration with the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee, the Master Plan Implementation Committee, the newly established Climate Action Planning Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Department as well as external agencies and organization such as the Neponset River Watershed Association, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and the City of Quincy.

Submitted on behalf of the Milton Conservation Commission to the Milton Planning and Community Development Department on May 26, 2023.

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APPROVED BY JAMES HANCOCK & SONS, INC. 1911-12



Hydrographic Survey
 of the
 River, Lake,
 and Sound,
 1911-12
 by
 J. H. HANCOCK & SONS, INC.
 1911-12

APPROVED
 BOARD OF SELECTMEN
 TOWN OF MILTON
 1911-12
 JAMES HANCOCK & SONS, INC.
 1911-12



PLAN OF LAND
 MILTON MASSACHUSETTS
 1911-12

APPROVAL UNDER THE
 SUBDIVISION CONTROL LAW
 NOT REQUIRED.
 ONE APRIL 15, 1912

FOR THE BOARD OF PLANNING BOARD

MILTON
 QUINBY

Presented to
JAMES S. RUSSELL
750 CENTON AVE.
MILTON, MASS.

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PLATE 4A

