



Town of Bridgewater

Finance Committee

March 10, 2025

7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83026147863>

Meeting ID: 830 2614 7863

MEETING AGENDA

Disclosure: Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2020, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, and the March 31, 2025, extension granted by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance is permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Zoom.

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) February 18, 2025
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Old Business**
- E. New Business**
 - a) Order O-FY25-042: Transfer Order - CPC Purchase and Restoration of Samuel Edson's Coroners Book
 - b) Order O-FY25-043: CPC Additional Funds - Restoration of Parthenon Frieze
 - c) Order O-FY25-045: Acceptance of Donation - Discovery Channel's Expedition X Circle the Globe Production
 - d) Order O-FY25-047: Transfer Order for Town Manager's Office
- F. Additional Items for Discussion**
- G. Adjournment of Meeting**



Town of Bridgewater Finance Committee

MEETING MINUTES

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a) November 18, 2024
5 yeas, 0 nays - APPROVED

C. Public Comment

D. Old Business

E. New Business

- a) Order O-FY25-032: Acceptance of Non Recurring Revenue to Capital - Department of Corrections
This order accepts one time non-recurring revenues from the DOC earmarked 2025 budget to the Capital Stabilization Fund for Capital Appropriations for the Towns/Schools Capital Needs.
Rigobert Noel motioned to recommend O-FY25-032 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- b) Order O-FY25-037: Acceptance of Donation - Oliari Charitable Foundation
The Oliari Charitable Foundation has graciously donated \$45,000 to be split evenly between the Police Department, the Fire Department and the library and the funds are to be used at the sole discretion of the respective department heads.
Rigobert Noel motioned to recommend O-FY25-037 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- c) Order O-FY25-038: Acceptance of Grant – Firefighter Safety Grant Equipment Program
The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services (DFS) has awarded the Bridgewater Fire Department \$10,981.59 to the Firefighter Safety Grant Equipment Program. The contract, terms and conditions for the program will be provided by DFS. These funds will cover the costs for new updated safety equipment including: combustible gas detector, HCN detector, hand tools, PPV fan & a handheld thermal imager.

Rigobert Noel motioned to recommend O-FY25-038 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- d) Order O-FY25-039: Adoption of a 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan
The 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program is presented for adoption by the Council. It is a multi-year guide, but not an appropriation. The plan changes from year-to-year as revised or new items are added or amended.

Derek Bennett motioned to recommend O-FY25-039 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- e) Order O-FY25-040: General Fund Capital Transfer Order
This transfer will fund FY2025 Town GF Capital Outlay Expenditures.

Rigobert Noel motioned to recommend O-FY25-040 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- f) Order O-FY25-041: Capital Transfer Order – Water Enterprise Fund
This transfer will fund requests for Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds Capital Outlay - including additional funds for WTR Town concrete collar repair project, funding WTR well pilot & design for infrastructure needs for wells#10a & 10b, a replacement dump truck for aging Water Department vehicle, and finally funding for an updated Water and Sewer User rate study, necessary for compliance and affordability study needs.

Derek Bennett motioned to recommend O-FY25-041 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Additional Items for Discussion

- a) Committee Meeting Schedule
The committee will meet the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

5 yea, 0 nay - APPROVED

G. Adjournment of Meeting

The committee adjourned at 7:15pm.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager
Date Introduced: 2/18/2025
First Reading: 2/18/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-042: Transfer Order - CPC Purchase and Restoration of Samuel Edson's Coroners Book

ORDERED, in accordance with section 6-4 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, vote to appropriate \$13,000 from Historic Preservation Reserve (Account Number 32400) for this Project.

Explanation:

See CPC Recommendations

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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•	•
•	•

Attachments:

1. Edson Book Preservation
2. Edson Book significance request_
3. Recommendation - Edson Book

Bridgewater Historical Commission
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

December 17, 2024

Community Preservation Commission
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: "The Samuel Edson Lawbook"

I have reviewed the notes submitted to the Historical Commission concerning the preservation and digitization of portions of the "Samuel Edson Lawbook". It is rare when such a significant book comes to light and we are given the chance to bring it home. His personal notations concerning the forensic investigations into the passing of native Americans provide us with a link to the early life of colonial Bridgewater.

The fact that we can get those personal notations digitized doubles the significance of this opportunity. It will not just be a delicate "museum piece" sitting on the shelf or in a locked case. The digitization will enable all to closely examine the writings for future interpretation of the early lives in the colony. Hopefully, it will stimulate interest in the little-known lives of the native peoples following the social turmoil suffered by the native population prior to the American Revolution.

Hopefully, the digitization will also be available to the local university through the Bridgewater Public Library archives facilitating more research on the subject and further broadening our knowledge of early Bridgewater history. With this in mind, the Bridgewater Historical Commission strongly supports the efforts of the use of CPC funding to acquire and preserve this very significant but little-known segment of Bridgewater's history.

Sincerely

David R. Moore
Chairman
Bridgewater Historical Commission



Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Community Preservation Committee

Nov. 18, 2024

Bridgewater Historical Commission
David Moore, Chair
66 Central Sq.
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Subject: Declaration of historic significance in Bridgewater for a circa 1745 Samuel Edson Book

Greetings David,

The CPC is in possession of Samuel Edson's 1735 law book. The book is currently undergoing evaluation for preservation/restoration at NEDCC. We anticipate receiving restoration cost estimates in the next couple of weeks. The book does not appear to be an "official Town record" but records the work of a citizen. The book includes a copy of the "*Acts and Laws of His Majesties Province of the Massachusetts-Bay New England*" (1726 printing; digital copies are available online) and handwritten information of Edson's 18th century work as coroner in Bridgewater. Samuel Edson was born in Bridgewater on 14 January 1690 and died 27 December 1771 also in Bridgewater. He donated the land for Trinity Church and is interred in its 1763 cemetery on Main St. north of the High and Center St. intersection.

As explained below, the CPC needs the Historical Commission's determination of the book's historical significance in Bridgewater to ensure its eligibility for preservation/restoration with CPA funds. Unfortunately, we do not have the history of its ownership over time, just the book itself and the author's connection to Bridgewater. The names of 18th century Bridgewater inhabitants are included in the book and Samuel's birth and death in Bridgewater verify his Bridgewater connection. To assist the Commission's deliberations, I have attached images of selected book pages.

Background: An October 31, 2008, DOR letter responded to the following request from the City of Waltham, "*You asked whether monies in the Waltham Community Preservation Fund may be expended for purposes of record retention. You indicated that you intend to have document scanning work performed with respect to vital records, records of City Council matters, and other filings in the Clerk's Office. You inquire as to "what age the record needs to be to qualify under the Community Preservation requirements."*

The DOR letter clarifies eligibility for CPA funds to restore documents and digitize records subject to the State's legal retention law as follows "*To be eligible for community preservation expenditures, the records in question must have been "determined by the local historic preservation commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture" of Waltham. G.L. c. 44B, §2.*" Digitization is not considered historic preservation but may be incidental to it.

The key point from DOR's letter makes it clear that CPA funds can be used to restore and preserve documents such as this 1735 Edson Book **if it is declared significant in the history and culture of Bridgewater**. We believe the records written in the book, which record a coroner's investigative activities including the death of three Indigenous people are significant in Bridgewater, hence our request.

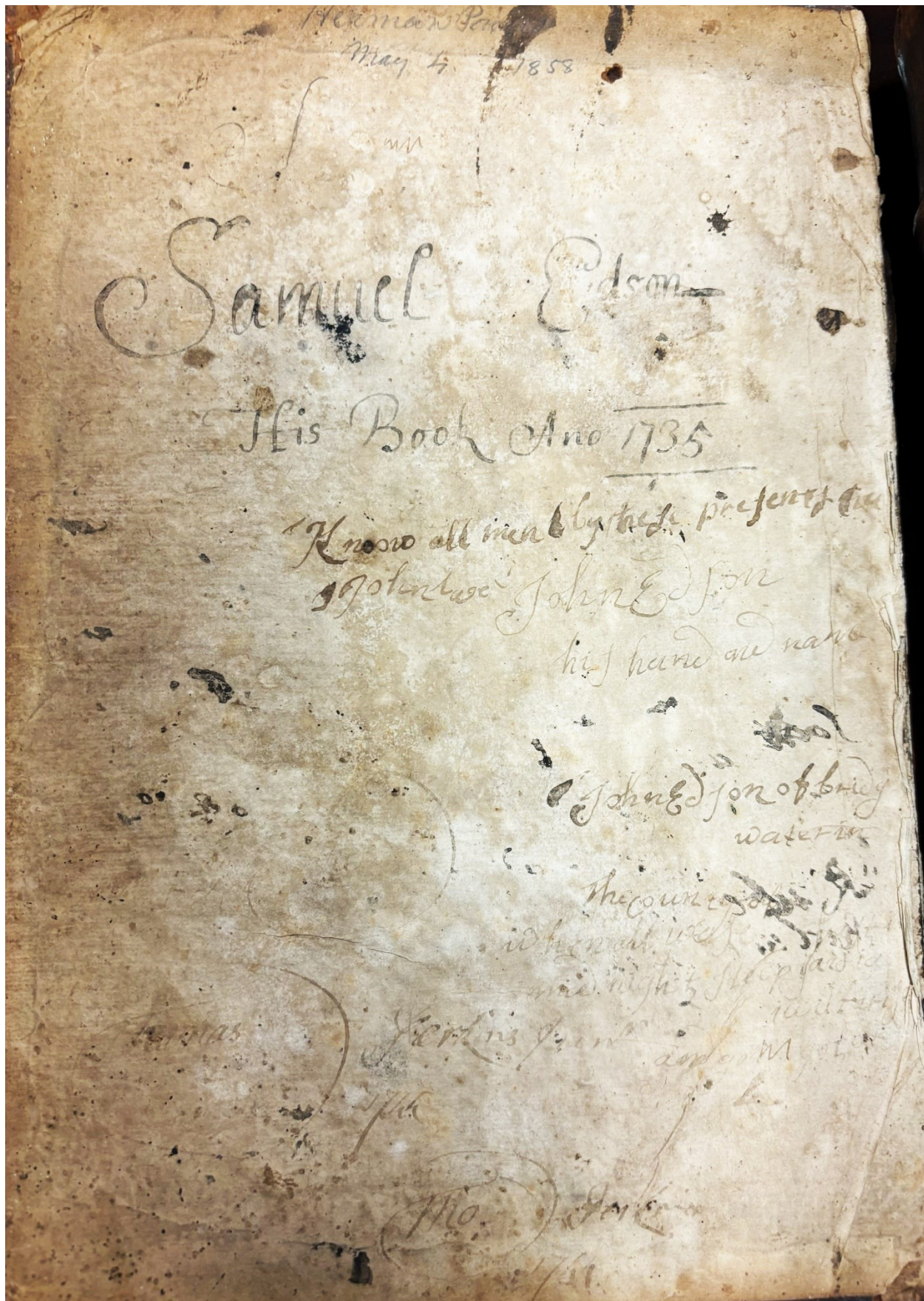
There is limited information regarding the book's history from the individual who mailed the book to the CPC at our request. Unfortunately, his information source passed away before he could complete research on the book's provenance.

Sincerely,

Carlton D. Hunt, Ph.D.
Vice Chair
Bridgewater CPC



Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Community Preservation Committee





Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts
Community Preservation Committee

...month upon the 23rd day of October in the fourteenth year
of our Sovereign Lord George the Second by the grace of
God King with in the County of Plymouth upon the
body of Nathaniel Bacon a Child near five months
old dead by the oath of Eleazar Carver Solomon Pratt
Joseph Pratt Jr. Joshua Willits Jr. Alden
Benjamin Price Seth Cary Benjamin
Nathan Hayward Jr. Ruben Hall Robert Willits
good and Lawfull men of Bridgewater in the County of
being charged and sworn to Enquire for our Lord the King
by what means the said Nathaniel came by his Death
on their oaths do say that by Sudden Death he came to his
So the Jurors on their oaths do say that in manner abovesaid
said Nathaniel came to his Death justly and lawfully
before said as the Jurors upon their oaths interchangeably do to
these Hands and Seals

Samuel Edson Coroner
Eleazar Carver
Solomon Pratt
Joseph Pratt
Joshua Willits Jr.
Alden
Benjamin Price
Seth Cary
Benjamin Mahwin
Nathan Hayward
Ruben Hall
Robert Willits



Town of Bridgewater, MA

Community Preservation Committee

66 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324

February 4, 2025

Ms. Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager
Town of Bridgewater
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: Purchase and Restoration of Samuel Edson's Coroners Book

Dear Ms. Robinson:

In response to your application for the purchase and restoration of the Samuel Edson Coroner's Book, dated January 16, 2025, the following motion was made by Carlton Hunt and duly seconded by Maureen Minnasian at the CPC's January 22nd meeting. The motion passed with 6 yeas and 0 nays.

To recommend the funding of the purchase and restoration and preservation of the subject book from Samuel Edson, his coroner's book, in the amount of \$13,000 to be taken from account 324200, Historic Preservation Reserve.

Please see that this information is placed on the Town Council agenda for their next meeting and that the attached application and related documents are forwarded to the Council members as backup to the order.

I would appreciate if you would let me know when the Council acts on the order so we can prepare the award letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Gina Guasconi".

Gina Guasconi, Chair
Community Preservation Committee

cc: Josh McGraw
Laurie Guerrini
Kevin Perry
Debra Ward
Carlton Hunt



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager
Date Introduced: 2/18/2025
First Reading: 2/18/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-043: CPC Additional Funds - Restoration of Parthenon Frieze

ORDERED, in accordance with section 6-4 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, vote to appropriate \$4,600 from Historic Preservation (Account Number 324200) to reinforce the upper walls of the Academy Building in order to properly furnish and mount the restored frieze replications.

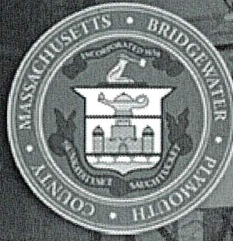
Explanation:

CPC recommended and Town Council approved \$18,000 in February/March of 2023 to restore and hang the Parthenon Frieze on the walls at the entrance of the Academy Building but the walls need reinforcement and strengthening in order to mount the restored friezes safely.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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Attachments: 1. Parthenon Frieze - Request for Additional Funding
2. Recommendation - Parthenon Frieze - Additional Funding



Town Manager's Office

Municipal Office Building
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0919

January 2, 2025

Ms. Gina Guasconi, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
Town of Bridgewater
66 Central Square Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: Parthenon Frieze Project – Additional Funding Request

Dear Chair of the Community Preservation Committee:

As you know, due to the additional expenses incurred to reinforce the upper walls to properly furnish and mount the restored friezes, we are expected to run a deficit of \$4,600 for the restoration and mounting of the six Parthenon Frieze Replications.

To that end, I request that the Community Preservation Committee recommend funding an additional \$4,600 to ensure that we can cover this deficit and complete the project.

As always, I thank the committee members for your diligent efforts on behalf of the residents of Bridgewater.

Sincerely,

Blythe C. Robinson
Acting Town Manager



Town of Bridgewater, MA

Community Preservation Committee

66 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324

February 4, 2025

Ms. Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager
Town of Bridgewater
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: Additional Funds - Restoration of Parthenon Frieze

Dear Ms. Robinson:

In response to your letter dated January 2, 2025, requesting CPA funds to cover additional expenses incurred to reinforce the upper walls of the Academy Building in order to properly furnish and mount the restored frieze replications, the following motion was made by Carlton Hunt and duly seconded by Bill Smith at the CPC's January 22nd meeting. The motion passed with 6 yeas and 0 nays.

To recommend \$4600 for Town Council approval for strengthening of the walls at the entrance of the Academy Building so that the frieze can be safely displayed. The account to be used is 324200, Historic Preservation.

To be noted: This request is to complete a project which the CPC recommended and the Town Council approved in February/March 2023 in which \$18,000 was awarded to restore and hang Parthenon frieze in the Academy Building.

Please see that this information is placed on the Town Council agenda for their next meeting and that your letter is forwarded to the Council members as backup to the order.

I would appreciate if you would let me know when the Council acts on the order so we can prepare the award letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gina Guasconi".

Gina Guasconi, Chair
Community Preservation Committee

cc: Josh McGraw
Laurie Guerrini
Kevin Perry
Debra Ward
Carlton Hunt



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager
Date Introduced: 2/18/2025
First Reading: 2/18/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-045: Acceptance of Donation - Discovery Channel's Expedition X Circle the Globe Production

WHEREAS: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53A, states as follows: “An officer ... of any city or town ... may accept grants or gifts of funds from ... from the commonwealth ... or an agency thereof, ... and may expend such funds for the purposes of such grant or gift ... with the approval of the city manager and city council...;” and

WHEREAS: The Town of Bridgewater has received a Donation award from the Discovery Channel’s Expedition X/circle the Globe Production for \$800.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Chapter 44, §53A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Council votes to take the following action:

ORDERED that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to accept and to expend the donation in accordance with stated purpose thereof.

Explanation:

The Discovery Channel’s Expedition X/Circle the Globe Production has graciously donated \$800 to support the time spent in Town while filming scenic areas.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

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•	•

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager
Date Introduced: 3/4/2025
First Reading: 3/4/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-047: Transfer Order for Town Manager's Office

ORDERED, that the Town council assembled vote to

Pursuant to Section 6-4 of the Town of Bridgewater Charter, that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to appropriate \$102,616 below schedule:

Source of Funds	Account No.	GL Account Description	Amount
Other One Time Stabilization Fund	80135-596100	Transfer to General Fund	\$ 102,616.00
Total:			\$ 102,616.00
Use of Funds	Account No.	GL Account Description	Amount
Town Manager Employee Salaries	01235001-510000	Full Time Wages	\$ 65,000.00
Town Manager Professional Services	01235013-530000	Professional Services	\$ 37,616.00
Total			\$ 102,616.00

Explanation:

Transfer from Other One-Time Stabilization Fund for contractual services for the Town Manager's office. Current Fund balance in this Fund is \$463,285

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•
•	•
•	•

Attachments: None