



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Gill, Parks and Recreation Director

DATE: November 27, 2023

SUBJECT: New Hampshire Council of the Arts Grant for improvements of the Eastman Clock Tower.

History

Originally funded by the Eastman Family Memorial Association, the monument is owned by the City of Concord and sits within a small municipal pocket park in East Concord. The monument was intended to honor Ebenezer Eastman, one of the original European settlers to the area. The small park also contains a State Historical Highway Marker noting the site to be the terminus of the original New Hampshire Turnpike. Another historical marker within the park also notes the location as the site of the original Merrimack River crossings (Eastman Ferry 1727, Tucker Ferry 1785, Federal Bridge 1799). And finally, nearby is a small marker noting the location of the Rumford garrison house, established for the protection of the earliest colonial settlers.

The Eastman monument truly provides historical commemoration, while occupying a space of particular importance in the history of New Hampshire and the City of Concord. The granite for the Eastman monument was quarried locally at the Granite State Quarry, operating at Concord's Rattlesnake Hill quarries. The monument was sculpted by the New England Granite Works in Westerly, Rhode Island.



Discussion

This summer in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the monument's 1924 dedication, The City of Concord in cooperation with current and former residents of East Concord, proposed to have the monuments clocks restored to working order in time for a rededication event in 2024.

In addition to restoration of the clocks, the project will include cleaning of the monument faces. The funding through the New Hampshire Council on the Arts will be entirely directed at restoration efforts on the Eastman Monument, restoring the clock component and cleaning the granite surfaces.

There is no match requirement of the grant.

Recommendation

Apply for and accept this grant and set this resolution for a public hearing at the January 8, 2024 City Council meeting.

