



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
Community Development Department

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Carlos P. Baía, Deputy City Manager for Development
DATE: March 25, 2021
SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding re: Gas Holder Building

Recommendation

Accept this report and authorize the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and Liberty Utilities for the preservation of the Gas Holder Building.

Background

In 2020, the City Council appointed a Gas Holder Committee of City Council to review the current status of the Gas Holder Building and to determine preservation feasibility. The committee held several meetings. Ultimately, the NH Preservation Alliance, which had collaborated with the committee, retained the services of ADG, LLC who ultimately recommended a phased approach to preservation.

At its January 2021 meeting, City Council accepted the ADG report concluding that preservation was in the best interest of the community. All three parties, City, Liberty and the Preservation Alliance were directed to draft an MOU to formalize this commitment.

Discussion

The attached MOU outlines expectations for all three parties. The more significant responsibilities going forward rest with Liberty Utilities and the Preservation Alliance. The Alliance has secured an anonymous donor willing to contribute up to \$500,000 toward the building's preservation. Liberty has agreed to match the donor's contribution for Phase 1 stabilization.

The City's commitment in the MOU is that it "shall consider:"

- i. contributing the expertise of its staff as needed from time to time to facilitate the success of Phase I and Phase II;

- ii. the Property and/ or Gas Holder for grant-making applications to appropriate sources;
- iii. statutory programs or other initiatives to encourage investment in the Property; and
- iv. providing funding for Phase I and/or Phase II.

The MOU is not a binding contract but rather a testimonial of the spirit of collaboration and a guide for future preservation efforts.