



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Carlos P. Baía, Deputy City Manager for Development

DATE: August 25, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution appropriating \$20,000 of which \$15,500 will be drawn from the City's Economic Development Reserve and \$4,500 as a donation from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance to fund an assessment of redevelopment scenarios for the former gas holder house.

Recommendation

Set the attached appropriation resolution for public hearing at the September 14, 2020 meeting.

Background

A recent report commissioned by the City of Concord and Liberty Utilities outlined three possible outcomes for the former gas holder house: demolition; restoration as a static monument; or redevelopment. Liberty Utilities has indicated that they will be seeking to demolish the structure by the end of 2020 unless a viable plan is presented.

Discussion

In an effort to salvage this structure in a productive manner, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance has suggested that an assessment of possible redevelopment scenarios be undertaken with the following goals:

- Explore and assess redevelopment and stewardship scenarios, using recent City/Liberty Utilities report as a starting point.
- Produce options with practical financial information, suggestions about ownership/management models and recommendations for next steps.
- Create a document that can test the interest of other private and public sector parties and help inform City's future decision-making.

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance has estimated this assessment to cost up to \$20,000 and pledged \$4,500 toward this effort.

An ad hoc committee of Council is expected to be appointed to oversee this assessment in partnership with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. The City would manage the expenditures for this project and provide staff support as needed.