

RE: Senator Kennedy Request Letter of Support = Doug's suggestions

From: dcxtwo@comcast.net (dcxtwo@comcast.net)

To: jbreen5@verizon.net

Cc: aajennings@aol.com; marlies.henderson@gmail.com; bkuttner@alum.mit.edu; dcxtwo@comcast.net; chris@batvinc.org

Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 09:31 AM EST

Jay,

Good letter. Here are a few suggestion,; use or not.

Mostly breaking up Ciceronian sentences, but also a plug for Rourke Bridge

First is clean copy, then markup follows below in original email

C U 2 hours

Doug

Dear Senator Kennedy:

The Middlesex Canal Association asks that you support the Association's application for a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The deadline for filing for a MCC Cultural Facilities Fund grant is December 14. A short letter from you - as a present member and former Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development - supporting a matching grant for finishing the Middlesex Canal Museum and Visitor Center (as described in the attached member appeal letter) would be as significant as a long one, I think.

We are also working on the proposed Middlesex Canal Lowell Heritage Park authorized in the 1977 Act establishing the MC Commission. The southern third can easily be built on gas and power line rights of way from Cross Point. The northern third can run on residential streets up to the new Rourke Bridge, which will include a good cycle path to the Vandenburg Esplanade and the reconstructed Route 133 bike lane all the way to Lawrence. The middle third must go around the swamp visible from Route 3. Since our conversation, the Association has researched the ownership of the twenty or so acres between the Daley and Bailey Schools and Rte. 3- (See the link below.) The land is owned by the Eastern Salt Co, whose president, treasurer, secretary, and director is Shelagh Mahoney, 250 Westview Road. The twenty acres would have been a backyard for her children as they are adjacent to the family home. As a well-known local philanthropist, possibly Mahoney would gift the land for a park named after her father, Leo Mahoney. The \$51 million sports arena at Fairfield University, built in 2022, was named for him.

The towpath in the proposed park is part of the canal traveled by Henry Thoreau in 1839 and described in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. The ad hoc Billerica trails committee is working on making the so-called Thoreau Towpath part of a bike path completing the Bay Circuit Trail among the Bruce Freeman, Yankee Doodle, Narrow Guage, 113, and Minuteman trails and Lowell Greenway. (See the link below.) Marlies Henderson of the trails group introduced the Thoreau Towpath to bike path idea to Congresswoman Lori Trahan at the October ribbon cutting at the Freeman Trail bridge over Rte. 2 in Concord. Along with funding the Freeman Bridge, Rep Trahan secured \$5 million for the trail bridge at the Lowell Amphitheatre.

In a related matter, the MC Association is also proponent of a play based on the tragic novel Wayne Peters' *This Enchanted Land: Middlesex Village* to be performed by Lowell High School drama students or Merrimack Repertory. (See the link "Farmer Takes a Wife" for more information.) While the writer-director of the 10-minute video *Afterword to This Enchanted Land* is not ?able? willing to be playwright, Lowell

does have a playwright, Jack Neary. He might be interested in applying for a \$5,000 Mass Cultural Council grant to adapt the Wayne Peters novel into a play for Lowell's bicentennial.

J. Breen, president, 978-688-4322

From: J. Jeremiah Breen <jbreen5@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:24 AM
To: Andrew Jennings <aajennings@aol.com>; Marlies Henderson <marlies.henderson@gmail.com>; William S. Kuttner <bkuttner@alum.mit.edu>; Douglas Chandler <dcxtwo@comcast.net>; Chris Clark <chris@batvinc.org>
Subject: Senator Kennedy Request Letter of Support

Good day,

Draft email to Sen. Kennedy for review.
The MC Association is applying for a \$200,000 grant like that received in 2022.

Dear Senator Kennedy:

The Middlesex Canal Association asks that you support the Association's application for a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The deadline for filing for a MCC Cultural Facilities Fund grant is December 14. A short letter from you - as a present member and former Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development - supporting a matching grant for finishing the Middlesex Canal Museum and Visitor Center (as described in the attached ~~November 28, 2023 member~~ appeal letter) would be as significant as a long one, I think.

We are also working on the proposed Middlesex Canal Lowell Heritage Park authorized in the 1977 Act establishing the MC Commission. The southern third can easily be built on gas and power line rights of way from Cross Point. The northern third can run on residential streets up to the new Rourke Bridge, which will include a good cycle path to the Vandenburg Esplanade and the reconstructed Route 133 bike lane all the way to Lawrence. The middle third must go around the swamp visible from Route 3. Since our conversation, the Association has researched the ownership of the twenty or so acres between the Daley and Bailey Schools and Rte. 3. ~~site of the proposed MC Heritage Park authorized in the 1977 Act establishing the MC Commission.~~ See the link below. The land is owned by the Eastern Salt Co, whose president, treasurer, secretary, and director is Shelagh Mahoney, 250 Westview Road. The twenty acres would have been a backyard for her children as they are adjacent to the family home. As a well-known local philanthropist, possibly Mahoney would gift the land for a park named after her father, Leo Mahoney. The \$51 million sports arena at Fairfield University, built in 2022, was named for him.

The towpath in the proposed park is part of the canal traveled by Henry Thoreau in 1839 and described in *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. The ad hoc Billerica trails committee is working on making the so-called Thoreau Towpath part of a bike path ~~between completing the Bay Circuit Trail among the Bruce Freeman, Yankee Doodle, Narrow Gauge, 113, and Minuteman at Bedford MA trails~~ and Lowell Greenway, ~~crossing the new Rourke Bridge~~. (See the link below.) Marlies Henderson of the trails group introduced the Thoreau Towpath to bike path idea to Congresswoman Lori Trahan at the October ribbon cutting at the Freeman Trail bridge over Rte. 2 in Concord. Along with funding the Freeman Bridge, Trahan secured \$5 million for the trail bridge at the Lowell Amphitheatre.

In a related matter, the MC Association is also proponent of a play based on the tragic novel, Wayne Peters' *This Enchanted Land: Middlesex Village* to be performed by Lowell High School drama students or Merrimack Repertory. (See the link "Farmer Takes a Wife" ~~below~~ for more information.) While the writer-

director of the 10-minute video *Afterword to This Enchanted Land* is not ~~?able?~~ willing to be playwright, for making a play of the tragic novel to be performed by Lowell High School drama students or Merrimack Repertory. Lowell does have a playwright, Jack Neary. He might be interested in applying for a [\\$5,000 Mass Cultural Council grant](#) to ~~adapt the Wayne Peters novel into~~ write a play for Lowell's bicentennial. ~~from Wayne Peters novel.~~

J. Breen, president, 978-688-4322

[Middlesex Canal Association](#)

Attachment.

Association annual appeal letter, November 28, 2023

Links.

[Link to map of canal west of Daley and Bailey Schools.](#)

Consider addition near Scotty Finneral memorial in Vandenberg Esplanade.

~~The MC Association is also proponent of a play~~

~~based on the tragic novel, Wayne Peters'~~

~~*This Enchanted Land. Middlesex Village.*~~

~~Possible actors from Merrimack Repertory and~~

~~Lowell High School.~~

See "[President's Message: Farmer Takes a Wife](#)",

in *Towpath Topics*, Vol. 61, No. 3 (April 2023).

