

Re: Lowell's Middlesex Canal Heritage Park

From: Hendriks, Joshua (SEN) (joshua.hendriks@masenate.gov)

To: jbreen5@verizon.net

Date: Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 01:45 PM EST

Sorry for the delay Mr. Breen, attached is a copy of the letter you requested.

Sincerely,

Joshua Hendriks

Joshua Hendriks
Director of Communications
Office of Senator Edward J. Kennedy
(617) 722-1630
Joshua.Hendriks@MASenate.gov

From: J. Jeremiah Breen <jbreen5@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 1:30 PM
To: Hendriks, Joshua (SEN) <Joshua.Hendriks@masenate.gov>
Cc: Kennedy, Edward (SEN) <Edward.Kennedy@masenate.gov>
Subject: Fw: Lowell's Middlesex Canal Heritage Park

You don't often get email from jbreen5@verizon.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Mr. Hendricks,

Please email me a copy of the scanned letter of support.

The deadline for the Cultural Facilities Fund application is Thursday, 14 December.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: J. Jeremiah Breen <jbreen5@verizon.net>
To: Hendriks, Joshua (SEN) <Joshua.Hendriks@masenate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 03:37:36 PM EST
Subject: Re: Lowell's Middlesex Canal Heritage Park

Thank you, Mr. Hendricks.
Very much relieved to know that action was begun quickly.
I anticipate a scan well before the deadline.

On Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 02:42:11 PM EST, Hendriks, Joshua (SEN) <joshua.hendriks@masenate.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Breen,

My apologies for the late response. It has been hectic around here as our Chief of Staff is out sick. I have a draft copy of a support letter ready, just need to review it with the Senator! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joshua Hendriks

Joshua Hendriks
Director of Communications
Office of Senator Edward J. Kennedy
(617) 722-1630
Joshua.Hendriks@MASenate.gov

From: J. Jeremiah Breen <jbreen5@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 1:16 PM
To: Kennedy, Edward (SEN) <Edward.Kennedy@masenate.gov>
Subject: Fw: Lowell's Middlesex Canal Heritage Park

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Please acknowledge receipt of the Dec 1 email below. The application to the Mass Cultural Council has a deadline of December 14.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: J. Jeremiah Breen <jbreen5@verizon.net>
To: Edward Kennedy <edward.kennedy@masenate.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 at 12:38:25 AM EST
Subject: Lowell's Middlesex Canal Heritage Park

Note. Email is also attached as a PDF.

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-Visitor Center as described in the attached appeal letter would be as significant as a long one, I think.

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. 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*. An ad hoc trails committee is working on making the Thoreau Towpath part of a bike path between the Minuteman at Bedford MA and Lowell, 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 Auditorium.



**Oct. 31, 2023, Lori Trahan and Marlies Henderson,
Freeman Bridge over Rte. 2, Concord, Mass.**

Following up on a second topic in our conversation, the writer-director of the 10-minute video *Afterword to This Enchanted Land* is not at this time able to make a play of the Wayne Peters' novel to be performed by Lowell High School drama students or Merrimack Repertory. See the link, "Farmer Takes a Wife", for more information. Lowell does have a playwright, Jack Neary. He might be interested in applying for a [\\$5,000 Mass Cultural Council grant](#) to write a play for Lowell's bicentennial.

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).



2023 Middlesex Canal Museum and Visitor Center Cultural Facilities Fund Support Letter.pdf

72.4kB