



Preservation
Massachusetts

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January 25, 2010

Patricia Hunt, Chair
Easton Community Preservation
Committee
136 Elm Street
Easton, MA 02356

Dear Ms. Hunt:

On behalf of Preservation Massachusetts, I wish to convey my strong support for the application for Community Preservation Funding put forth by Beacon Communities Development LLC for the Ames Shovel Works. As you may know, Preservation Massachusetts is the statewide non-profit organization that actively promotes the preservation of historic buildings and landscapes as a positive force for economic development and the retention of community character.

Our organization first became involved with the Ames Shovel Works in North Easton back in 2008 when we listed it as one of Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources. The catalyst of the listing was a proposed plan that would have seriously altered the historic integrity of the complex and impacted the character of downtown Easton. Our organization collaborated with many groups in Easton in an effort to save this vitally important piece of town, state and national history. It became clear that many wanted to see this site not only preserved, but sensitively redeveloped so it could once again contribute actively to the community.

Preservation Massachusetts was delighted when the announcement came that Beacon Communities had plans to purchase, restore and redevelop the Ames Shovel Works. Due to our organizations work with the Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, we have come to know Beacon Communities very well over the last several years. To their credit, they are one of the top developers in our state that have utilized preservation methods to redevelop historic buildings, with tremendous results. From The Cordovan at Haverhill Station and Haverhill Lofts in Haverhill, to the Wilber School in Sharon, Beacon's reputation precedes them and we are certain that this complex and the town will benefit from their project.

As a partner in preservation and advocate for historic rehabilitation, economic development and community revitalization, Preservation Massachusetts urges your favorable consideration of this application. As the Shovel Works represent an investment from Easton's past, this project is an investment in that past for the future benefit of the town and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

James W. Igoe
President