

June XX 2023

Dear _____

On behalf of the Milford Heritage Commission, we wish to thank you for your generous donation to restore Milford's iconic Pillsbury Bandstand. Although Warrant Article 11, which sought \$48,000 in new taxpayer funds to restore the Pillsbury Bandstand, did not pass in March of 2023, we want you and your membership to know that efforts to raise the needed funds and secure the necessary skills are ongoing. The March 2023 vote needed only 140 votes to pass.

Our 2024 strategy will focus on a more aggressive education campaign for the voters, which will make it clear that:

1. The total project cost listed in the title of the Warrant Article (\$90,000 in March 2023) does not represent the actual amount being requested in new taxpayer funds. In fact, we have raised approximately 46% of the estimated cost from donations like yours.
2. The reasons that historical restoration can be more costly than replacement.
3. The specialized skills and materials needed for proper restoration.

In addition, we will spend time identifying potential resources for the labor and materials needed, including soliciting in-kind donations for those when appropriate.

This month, the Heritage Commission will be applying for an additional \$20,000 in grant funding. If awarded, we would have two years to expend those funds on the Pillsbury Bandstand. Our hope is to reduce the proposed cost to the Town by this amount, resulting in a 2024 Warrant Article authorizing approximately \$30,000 in taxpayer funds (depending on adjustments for anticipated market costs in 2025). We will continue to solicit donations and apply for grants until we are able to fully restore the Pillsbury Bandstand.

We would also like our donors and the community to know and understand that approval of funds in 2024 would most likely result in work being started in 2025. This is due largely to the fact that most restoration experts book roughly a year in advance, particularly for outdoor work. Without first securing full funding for the project, the Town cannot obligate an appropriate expert much, if any, sooner than the following spring or summer season.

We are grateful to _____ for its substantial donation to the Pillsbury Bandstand. The Heritage Commission continues to move this project forward with the expertise and assistance of organizations like the NH Preservation Alliance. We are confident that with a little more outreach and education, Milford's voters will support restoring this iconic community structure to its full potential as an historic centerpiece of town heritage.

Sincerely,

~David Palance

~Katherine Kokko