

From: **Susan Bryant** <susangbryant@yahoo.com>

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Subject: CPA support letter

In light of a request for a CPA funded grant, here are a few ways that the Second Congregational Church serves an important community-connecting role in my mind, in my family and on Cohasset Common, even to non-parishioners.

1. The role that this church holds in hosting diversity events, such as the Martin Luther King breakfast. A variety of organizations, both faith-based and non, were involved. People gathered, represented, learned and built community bonds with one another and with the wider American community.
2. Just off of the common's Farmer's Market, this welcoming church is an ideal place for community gatherings, piggy-backing on the outdoor events, that need an indoor space. In my role with the Center for Student Coastal Research, we have enjoyed collaborating to generate a meeting there of a neighborly circle of community members to share updates and thoughts on conservation issues, modeled after Concord's Conservation Coffees. Even though we only managed a few before Covid hit, we attracted some dedicated local citizens as well as our elected officials and generated more community participation in each other's events as a result.
3. Pastor Karen not only sets the welcoming tone you would hope for from a community-friendly site, but is a top notch discussion facilitator, who intentionally brings out a variety of voices including those who might otherwise not participate. She is skilled at navigating even tricky topics,
4. Because my mother and I had a tradition of strawberry shortcakes there at the annual Art Festival, the mere thought of strawberry shortcakes conjures up happy memories for me and a loyalty to bring other dear friends together in my mom's honor, to enjoy them there at the Congregational church on the common.
5. Obviously this church's outward facing building is essential to Cohasset Common's classic New England aesthetic and is a historically and culturally important part of this town, in it's priority location next to Town Hall. The more activities that can happen here, the more all generations of people will feel that our Common is still in common and for the good of the townspeople.

Best,

Susan Bryant

Ecology Facilitator/Coach, Secretary of the Board

Center for Student Coastal Research

40 Parker Avenue, Cohasset, MA 02025

www.cccsr.org

857-231-1768

sbryant@ccscr.org