

**NEW NORTH MEETING HOUSE CORPORATION
1 LINCOLN STREET
HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02043**

September 8, 2025

Town of Hingham
Select Board
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

To the Select Board:

For years, parishioners of New North Church—especially our late in-house historian Bill Thayer—have hoped to restore the front steps that once graced the Meeting House in the 1800s. The attached images show how the Meeting House steps appeared in the 19th century. The steps were removed during subsequent street realignments.

We believe the impending reconstruction of the Lincoln and North Street intersection offers a rare chance to reintroduce this important element of the 19th-century streetscape of Fountain Square. For this reason, the New North Meeting House parish committee has voted to file a preliminary CPC application seeking funds to help underwrite the restoration of the ancient steps. (Copy attached.)

The steps would necessarily be located within the town-owned right-of-way in front of the Meeting House. We have learned that New North would be eligible to apply for CPC funds for the project if we obtain permission to do so from the Select Board.

Our concept envisions 5–6 granite steps with wrought iron railings, connecting the sidewalk on North Street to the new lawn in front of the church that will be created by the street reconfiguration plan you recently endorsed. At this point, we believe the total cost would be under \$30,000. New North has committed to providing \$10,000 in funding towards the project. Design details of the steps would, of course, be developed in consultation with the DPW, the Historic District Commission and any other appropriate town boards or departments, including the Select Board.

We respectfully request that you grant New North permission to pursue the step project through a formal CPC grant application. With the Lincoln House opening and the Old Ordinary's restoration, Fountain Square is emerging as the hub of Hingham's historic quarter. Restoring the Meeting House steps would strengthen that identity as we approach America's 250th anniversary. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,



Edward J. Bryden
President
New North Meeting House Corporation



Thomas R. Bright
Treasurer

cc: Committee Preservation Committee