



# SOUTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Ms. Brona Simon, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Blvd.  
Boston MA 02125

Dear Ms. Simon, On March 19, 2018, the Southborough Historical Commission voted unanimously (4-0) in support of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church Tower Restoration Project and their related application for a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund Round 24 Grant. This commitment was reaffirmed at our March 11, 2021 meeting.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church (SBR.T) is a significant part of the institutional focus at the heart of the town center, both as a religious structure and as a significant part of the legacy of prominent benefactor, Joseph Burnett. The 45-foot-tall crenelated belfry and clock tower, constructed as a freestanding structure in 1890, was donated by Charles F. Choate, a Southborough resident and member of one of Massachusetts' distinguished families. For the past 130 years, it has served as Southborough's de facto town clock. The Southborough Historical Commission is currently overseeing the nomination of a National Register Historic District for the center of town, and St. Mark's Church is a critical part of this proposed district. In addition, the structure is individually eligible for the National Register.

The SHC considers the bell and clock tower to be a highly significant cultural resource, and its full restoration is a high priority. Preservation of this picturesque English country Gothic Revival structure is important to the history, architecture and culture of Southborough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Weishan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Weishan, Chair