



MEDICAL EMERGENCY HELIPORT FUND
For Acton's New Public Safety Facility

November 25, 2003

Board of Selectmen
Town of Acton
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Board Members:

We have been actively involved in the process that led to the successful approval of the Public Safety Facility project last fall. Over the past two years we have helped educate voters, prepare advocacy materials, and served as members of the Steering Committee and/or various Task Forces. When the design was honed to a final proposal late this summer, we were satisfied that the final design retained the most necessary program functions and that it would be a project we could all be proud of. As with any major capital project, not every wished-for item was funded. Some important functions were cut from this project. One such item was a Medical Emergency Heliport, proposed to be sited at the rear of the new building, which was included in the bid documents as an alternative and removed after the bids were opened.

We were convinced that a Heliport was an essential need for our Town so we decided to see what we could do about it. In late summer, we began to plan a civic project to raise private funds to cover the full cost of labor and materials to construct a 3600 square foot medical emergency heliport on the grounds of the new Acton Public Safety Facility. We thoroughly researched the requirements and the cost for the Heliport, looking to Town staff for guidance. This project would be separate from the contract for the facility.

We learned that when trauma hits, a system takes over, with transport to a trauma center often the only answer. Trained professionals are counted on to provide the needed services with the first 20 minutes critical to saving a life. The nearest Trauma Center is in Boston or Worcester; the fastest way to get there is by Medflight helicopter.

Landing zone safety and security is of utmost importance during helicopter landing. Designated Heliports are designed to give pilots a safe, reliable place to land their craft, 24 hours a day. Acton needs a Heliport and the opportunity to build one is now. Locally, Medflight usage is increasing. Helicopter landings are taking place in parking lots, playing fields, highways, and golf courses. These are not optimum sites for this lifesaving transportation system. The more we researched, the more we became convinced the Town needs a dedicated Medical Emergency Heliport.

The total cost of the project is \$21,000, approximately one half for labor and one-half for materials. It is with great pleasure that we report we have received pledges for over 90% of the project total cost as of this date. Two major donors will cover most of the cost of the materials and provide the labor while another will fund the aviation materials for the site such as the windsock and related equipment. The 1400 TurfStone Pavers, required for the helipad, have been delivered to the Town and are being stored until the construction of the Heliport begins. We expect to raise the remaining \$2100 by the end of the year.

We now need your help with the final stages of the fundraising project. We have four requests for you:

- 1) We are asking the Board to vote to support this project. We have kept the Steering Committee co-chairs, Dore' and Trey informed during our planning as well as the Town Manager, the Municipal Properties Director, and the two Chiefs.
- 2). We request the Board of Selectmen authorize the establishment of a town gift fund, entitled: "Medical Emergency Heliport Fund". All of the expenditures and donations will flow in and out of this fund under the Town's control. All contributions to the Fund are tax deductible and any contribution of \$1000 or more will be recognized on a plaque to be placed in the lobby of the new facility. An arrangement has been made for a Lock Box at the Cambridge Savings Bank. Additional project contributions may be made payable to the Medical Emergency Heliport Fund and forwarded to:

Cambridge Savings Bank
Attn: Heliport Gift Fund
145 Great Road
Acton MA. 01720

- 3) We request permission to install a plaque in the Lobby of the new public safety facility at the completion of the project.
- 4) We ask you to accept the gift funds received as of Dec. 1, 2003. Total to be announced at the meeting.

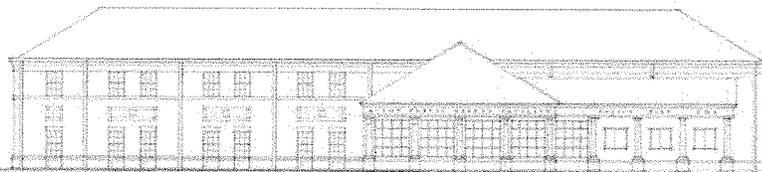
We will be attending your 12/1/03 meeting to answer any questions you might have. We look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

W. Arthur Gagne Nancy Tavernier

Ann Chang

W. Arthur Gagne', Nancy Tavernier, Ann Chang
MEHF Project Leadership Team



ACTON PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY
POLICE * FIRE * EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



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What is the Emergency Medical Heliport Project?

A civic project to raise private funds to cover the full cost of labor and materials to construct a 3600 square foot Medical Emergency Heliport on the grounds of the new Acton Public Safety Facility at 365 Main Street. The Heliport was part of the original approved design for the new facility but due to the need to trim the budget to meet the appropriation it was dropped along with other wished-for items.

Why does Acton need a Heliport?

Acton needs a designated Medical Emergency Heliport to transport critically injured or ill patients to a level 1, 2, or 3 Trauma center. The closest Trauma Center is in Boston or Worcester. Emerson Hospital does not have a Trauma Center. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts recommends the use of Medflight when the trip to a Trauma Center would otherwise exceed 20 minutes.

A National Institute of Health (NIH) Study supports this recommendation indicating early hospitalization enhances survival possibilities, reduces length of hospitalization and post-hospital therapy requirements. All contribute to healthcare cost effectiveness.

The proposed Heliport location on the site of the new Public Safety Facility:

- is central to major town intersections, schools and Route 2,
- meets Boston MedFlight access, clearance and landing specifications,
- is accessible 24 hours/day, 365 days/year and under Town control,
- is in close proximity to the state-of-the-art Joint Dispatch/Communication Center enhancing capability for contact and coordination with medical personnel and medical facilities,
- provides an all-weather surface, cleared of snow and obstructions, properly lighted, and
- can fully accommodate medical emergency, fire and police vehicles required when helicopter medical evacuation of sick or injured patient is undertaken.

Who is heading up this effort?

The project team leaders are local Acton residents, W. Arthur Gagne, Nancy Tavernier, and Ann Chang. They are long-time community activists who helped promote the construction of the new Public Safety Facility. Their efforts are supported by Town Staff including the Town Manager, the Director of Municipal Properties, and the Fire and Police chiefs.

How will the Heliport be constructed and by whom?

The Heliport will be built outside of the current construction contract through the use of private funding. The construction of the Heliport will be done by one of the major donors to the Fund, a local contractor. The anticipated completion date is Fall 2004.

How much will the project cost?

The total cost of the project is \$21,000, approximately one-half for labor and one-half for materials.

How will the Fund be administered?

Acton Board of Selectmen will establish a town gift fund, called Medical Emergency Heliport Fund, for the project and utilize a lock-box at a local bank. All contributions to the project and all expenditures will be through the named gift fund. Donations to the fund are tax deductible. Donations of \$1000 or more will be recognized on a plaque at the new facility. Outreach will be made to major businesses and the community at large.



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PROJECT MATERIALS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS - Actual and Estimated

Project materials will consist of the following items listed below:

LABOR: 404 Man Hours @ \$25.00/hr	\$10,106
<u>FILL & FINISH MATERIALS:</u>	\$ 2,894
TOTAL	\$13,000
FILL & FINISH MATERIALS AND LABOR PLEDGED BY: JAMES FENTON & SON, GENERAL CONTRACTOR 11/14/03	-\$13,000
Balance needed	\$ 0.00
<u>TURFSTONE PAVERS FOR HELIPAD:</u> 1400 units, 24" x 16" lattice-style gird paver (retail \$4.55 each)	\$ 6,370
PLEDGED BY IDEAL CONCRETE BLOCK CO. of Westford MA [John Burgoyne, Pres.] 11/7/03 1400 pavers delivered free of charge to Acton	-\$ 4,470
Balance needed	\$ 1,900
<u>AVIATION RELATED MATERIALS</u> Windsock installation, electrical connections, weather instruments, lights	\$ 1,000
<u>CONTINGENCY AND MISCELLANEOUS</u> (Recognition Plaque)	\$ 600
SUB-TOTAL BALANCE NEEDED TO RAISE	\$ 3,500
CASH PLEDGES AS OF 11/20/03	-\$ 1,400

GRAND TOTAL TO BE RAISED	\$ 2,100
As of 11/25/03	