



# TOWN OF MAYNARD

Office of the Town Administrator

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American Planning Association  
Massachusetts Chapter  
226 Causeway St.  
Boston, MA 02114

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Re: Nomination for 2023 Chapter Awards

To the Nominating Committee:

On behalf of the town of Maynard I would like to nominate Maynard resident David Mark for the MA Chapter of the American Planning Association's 2023 Citizen Planner Award. Below is a brief listing of some of the core reasons the Town believes Mr. Mark is an outstanding candidate for this award.

David has long been an institution of local knowledge and a fixture on the local historical circuit. Since his arrival in Maynard in 2000, he has authored numerous articles on Maynard, many of which were compiled in the book *Maynard History and Life Outdoors*. For the Town's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, he published an expansive history of Maynard. Maynard's 2020 Master Plan and Community Development Principles each emphasize the need to respect cultural and historic resources in order to ensure Maynard retains the essence of its history as a mill town and its mix of ethnic cultures. This goal is to remind future generations that preserving this identity should be kept in mind for all projects affecting sites of known or suspected historical, archaeological, or cultural value, protecting them to appropriate standards. David's work as an author and historian directly supported the goals of the organization or community of which he is a part. (See attached Exhibit B for more information).

David's volunteer efforts in Maynard include extensive work on the creation of the Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT). This multi-jurisdictional effort resulted in the creation of a regional trail utilizing planning principles and the planning process to help successfully develop the ARRT. Additionally David has—on a volunteer basis—designed and coordinated sustained assistance with ongoing maintenance that cannot be funded by the town. This part of the initiative (ongoing maintenance) was critical and demonstrated effectiveness in formulating and implementing his plans and furthered the cause of planning. Capping the ARRT maintenance efforts is the Trail of Flowers ([www.trailofflowers.com](http://www.trailofflowers.com)), a program David started in the fall

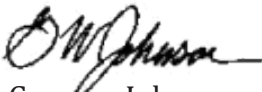
of 2018 to add beauty to the Rail Trail, organizing donations and volunteers to plant flowering bulbs, plants, shrubs and trees along the ARRT. (See attached Exhibit B for more information).

David produced a program and lecture about Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC). Beginning in 1957, DEC helped make Maynard the “Minicomputer capital of the world,” as a multi-billion dollar company second only to IBM. Mark’s talk, with many images from the archives of the Maynard Historical Society, spanned the origin, rise, peak and decline of DEC. It also highlighted the work experience of women at DEC, and the company’s commitment to diversity training. This work directly supported the goals of Maynard’s Master Plan—specifically Goal NCH 6-4: *Seek synergy between the local artist community and the schools through co-hosted events, programs, exhibitions, collaborative projects, and mentorship.* (See attached Exhibit B for more information).

David’s greatest achievement to date was the dedication of the Marble Farm Historic Site on May 2, 2023 (see attached Exhibit A). This dedication ceremony was the culmination of a 3 ½-year process to convert a notable 18<sup>th</sup>-century home foundation on town property into a historic site and park. David proposed this conversion to the Maynard Community Preservation Commission in the fall of 2019. It was approved at the Spring 2020 Town Meeting. The scope and budget of the project were subject to approval by the Select Board and Conservation Commission, 2021 Town Meeting vote, and DPW supervision until completion in spring 2023. David’s time and dedication increased the community’s understanding of planning principles and the planning process, and yielded a new community amenity.

We believe that David’s contributions more than warrant his consideration for 2023 Citizen Planner Award and hope the committee agrees with our assessment of the invaluable work he has performed.

Sincerely yours,

  
Gregory Johnson

Town Administrator  
Town of Maynard, Massachusetts

Exhibit "A"

Marble Farm Park Project

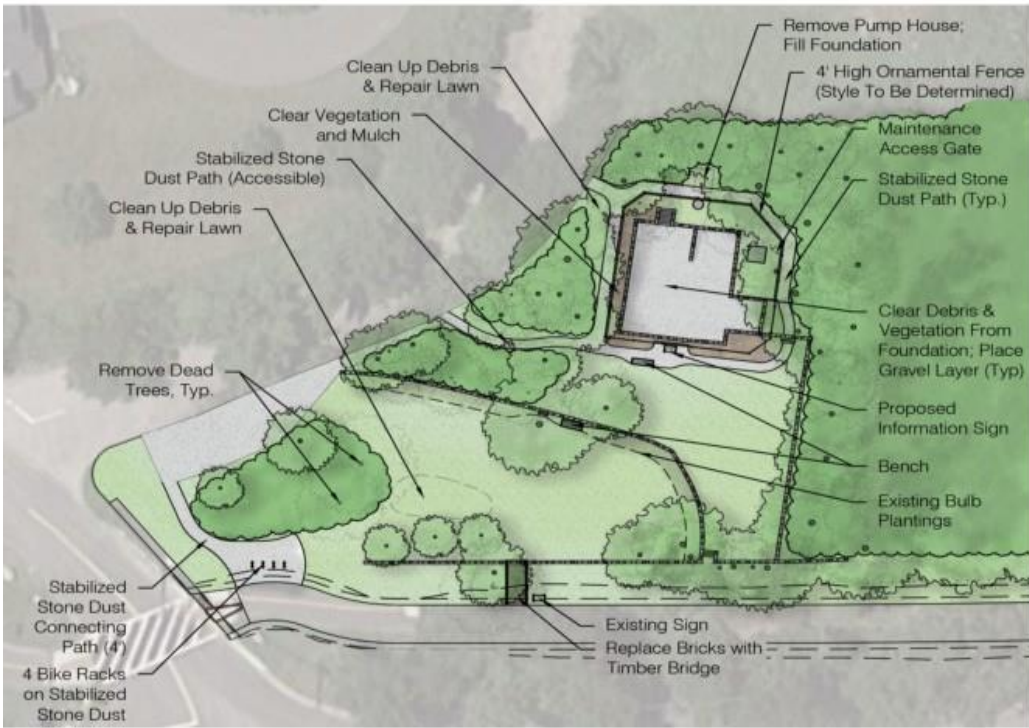


Exhibit “B”  
Links for David Mark Nomination

1. Trail of Flowers organization  
[www.trailofflowers.com](http://www.trailofflowers.com).
2. *Hidden History of Maynard*  
<https://www.amazon.com/Hidden-History-Maynard-David-Mark/dp/1626195412>
3. Marble Farm Groundbreaking  
<http://www.maynardlifeoutdoors.com/2022/10/marble-farm-park-maynard-ma.html>
4. Assabet River Rail Trail  
<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/massachusetts/assabet-river-rail-trail>
5. *All Things DEC*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDMfro3LdRw>