



City of Methuen, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The Searles Building, 41 Pleasant Street, Room 303

Methuen, Massachusetts 01844

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David P. Beauregard, Jr.

Mayor

April 1, 2025

Methuen City Council
Searles Building
41 Pleasant Street, Room 308
Methuen, MA 01844

RE: The Next Steps to Ensure the Restoration and Preservation of the Searles Estate

Dear Mr. Chair, Madam Vice-Chair, and Esteemed Councilors,

I am writing to present my administration's proposed next steps regarding Methuen's treasured Searles Estate. Since closing on the property in November 2024, my administration has worked diligently to explore the most viable options for the estate's future preservation and use.

To that end, I convened the Searles Estate Future Use Advisory Committee, an ad hoc mayoral advisory group composed of representatives from the administration, City Council, key municipal boards and commissions, and both private and public sector subject matter experts. Over the past several months, this committee has met multiple times, conducted a public hearing, and reviewed extensive public feedback, as well as financial data related to the costs and resources required to maintain the Searles Estate as a city-run entity.

Based on their expertise and thorough analysis, the committee has reached a strong consensus: issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) with specific conditions for the private ownership and operation of the Searles Estate is in the best interests of both the City of Methuen and the long-term historic preservation of the property. This approach ensures that the estate remains an asset for the community while alleviating the financial burden on the city's taxpayers.

The criteria established in the attached resolution reflect a collaborative effort to ensure the fair and effective evaluation of proposals. The committee strongly recommends that these criteria remain as flexible as possible to encourage a broad range of responses, including private sale, non-profit stewardship, and public-private partnerships. Additionally, we must remain open to innovative ideas that may emerge from interested parties beyond those we have previously considered.

Given the urgency of the situation, I urge the City Council to approve this measure as presented so that we can proceed without delay. As you know, the resources allocated to support the estate are limited. Moving forward expeditiously is critical to securing a sustainable and responsible future for the Searles Estate.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this matter and look forward to working together to protect and preserve this historic landmark for generations to come. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns as we advance this process.

Sincerely,

David P. Beauregard, Jr.
Mayor
City of Methuen