



Community Preservation Committee Littleton, Massachusetts

The CPC was established by Town Meeting in 2007. The CPC has the powers and responsibilities specified by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44B, section 5(b), the Community Preservation Act.

Community Preservation Application for Funding

Date: March 9, 2024

Project Title: Historic Marker and Plaque Replacements

Name of Applicant: Littleton Historical Commission

Name of Organization: Littleton Historical Commission

Address: Littleton Town Hall, 37 Shattuck St., Littleton, MA

Telephone: 978-835-0620 **Email:** frondfactor@yahoo.com

CPA Category (circle all that apply): **Open Space**

Recreation

Historic Preservation

Community Housing

CPA Funding Requested: \$9,990 **Total Project Cost:** \$9,990

Please attach answers to the following questions. Include supporting materials as necessary.

1. **Project Description:** Please give a detailed project description, including specific objectives.
2. **Goals:** How does this project accomplish the goals of the Community Preservation Plan for Littleton? (See Guidelines for Project Submission for general criteria)
3. **Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for all critical milestones? Will this be a multi-year project?
4. **Budget:** Please provide a full budget including the following information, as applicable. (NOTE: CPA funds may not be used for maintenance):
 - a. Total amount of the project cost, with itemization of major components.
 - b. Additional funding sources. Please include those that are available, committed, or under consideration.
 - c. Describe the basis for your budget and the sources of information you used.
5. **Support:** Have the appropriate Town Boards and Commissions expressed support and/or approved the project? What is the nature and level of community support for this project?



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Community Preservation application for Historic Marker and Plaque Replacements

Project Description:

The Littleton Historical Commission (LHC) is seeking \$9,990 in CPC funding to replace, refurbish, or clean seven deteriorated historic markers (plaques and one concrete/granite base) throughout Town. The markers to be replaced include those for the Meeting House, Lawrence Tavern, Nashobah Praying Indian Town, Warren Grist Mill, and the West School house. In addition, the Porter Road Bridge marker will either be replaced or refurbished, and the East School House marker will be cleaned or refurbished.

Many of the current marker plaques, put in place decades ago, have fallen into disrepair due to exposure to the weather and are now difficult (or impossible) to read. Several years ago the LHC replaced the "Quarantine Station" plaque at 127 Harwood Avenue and more recently (in 2022), the LHC replaced the "Garrison House" historic marker plaque on Powers Road. We plan to continue and ramp up this program. There is precedent for using CPC funds for this purpose (e.g., towns of Abington, Barnstable, Georgetown, and Wilbraham).

The Historical Commission has researched different types of materials for historical marker plaques, including wood, aluminum, and bronze. Previously for the 20 markers in Town, primarily wooden plaques have been used, and also metal plaques (bronze or aluminum) for several markers. In addition, for a few markers, text was etched into the concrete/granite marker "bases". For this CPC project, we plan to use both wood and bronze plaques to replace those in poor condition. Wood plaques convey a historical character and some current wood plaques for other markers remain in good shape (we will not be replacing those). Bronze markers outlive wood or aluminum, are not as susceptible to the weather as other materials, and are not much more expensive than aluminum. There is an option to refurbish bronze plaques if needed, with some companies offering free lifetime refinishing.

We plan to replace the following historic markers under this CPC funding application:

- **Meeting House** (Meetinghouse Road/Town Common) – Approximate site of the first meeting house. The structure was started about 1717 and completed in 1723. It was used until 1742 for church services as well as for town meetings. (Plaque to be replaced)
- **Lawrence Tavern** (Crane Road) – Also known as the Hartwell Tavern, was built in 1768. It was struck by lightning and burned in 1893. Here the militiamen refreshed themselves after drilling at Liberty Square. (Plaque to be replaced)
- **Warren's Grist Mill** (Parlee Lumber – Warren St and Mill Rd) – Started in 1750, this was the oldest continuously operating mill in the country until its closure in 2018. It began as a grist mill powered by an upright water wheel set in Beaver Brook. After the big blow of 1815, it was converted to a saw mill powered by an upright water wheel set in a sluice from Mill Pond which was created by damming Beaver Brook. In 1920 it was converted to electric power. A fire in 1968 burned the box factory. (Plaque to be replaced)



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- **Nashobah Praying Indian Town** (Newtown Rd and Nashoba Rd) - Indian Reservation. This marks the northwest corner of a 500-acre reservation set aside for descendants of the Nashobah Praying Indians in 1714. It included portions of Lake Nagog and Fort Pond. It was sold in 1734 by the last Indian, Sarah Doublet, to the Jones family. The LHC will work with the Nashobah Praying Indians on the best/most appropriate wording to use for this marker. In addition to a plaque, a new concrete base is needed for this marker.
- **West School House** (Sanderson Road) - Near this site the first West School was constructed about 1795. The present building is close to the original site and is the only historic school house in Littleton preserved in its original state. (Plaque to be replaced)
- **Porter Road Bridge**. The Acton-Groton Stagecoach Road crossed here. Nearby lived John Porter, who fought in the French and Indian Wars and the Revolution. He joined the Minutemen at Concord on April 19, 1775, was at the Battle of Bennington, the surrender of Cornwallis and on Lafayette's staff, advancing from Ensign to Major. Governor John Hancock appointed him a Colonel in August 17, 1789. This metal plaque, in poor condition, will be either replaced or refurbished, based on further assessment.
- **East School House** – The original Newtown or East School was built in 1795 not far from this site. This present building housed the school which served this area of town until 1960. This plaque will be replaced, cleaned or refurbished, based on further assessment.

Members of the Historical Commission are initially planning to install the new marker plaques ourselves, as we did previously for the "Garrison House" and Quarantine Station marker plaques. However, bronze markers, which are significantly heavier and harder, present more of a challenge to mount than wooden markers. It is possible that mounting of some of the new markers may require more experienced installers. In addition, installing a new concrete, granite, or stone base for one marker (Nashobah Praying Indian Town) will require assistance. The LHC will consider asking for assistance from the Littleton Public Works Department; seek other funds; and/or request additional CPC funds at a later time if needed for installation.

Project Goals:

The goal of this project is to preserve Littleton's historic markers for current residents and future generations by replacing the plaques on the granite or concrete markers and replacing one concrete/granite base. These markers memorialize many important historical events and figures of Littleton's past. This project meets the goals of the Littleton Community Preservation Plan to "preserve Littleton's historic resources and structures" and to "preserve current town-owned assets". The project is also consistent with the mission statement of the Littleton Historical Commission to "preserve and maintain the unique history of Littleton".



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Project Timeline:

Upon receiving CPC funding, the Littleton Historical Commission will order the plaques and once received, LHC members will install the new plaques and one base, possibly with additional assistance, and will have the other plaques refurbished or cleaned if possible instead of replaced. This will be an ongoing project over the next few years.

Budget:

The requested \$9,990 in funding would be used to acquire 5 to 7 new plaques for historic markers in Town, based on a quote received by Erie Landmark Company (Paul Zimmerman Foundries) (see Appendix A), which was less expensive than or comparable to prices found from several other companies. One or two current plaques may be refurbished or cleaned rather than replaced as determined based on further assessment of their condition. The funding request also includes funds to replace one concrete base for one new marker (based on verbal discussions with installers). Our Littleton Historical Commission budget request is:

\$5,327	Replacement of 7 historic marker plaques
3,000	Replacement of one concrete base
<u>1,663</u>	Installation assistance; and refurbish and/or clean 2 existing plaques
\$9,990	

Project Support:

The project has the support of the Littleton Historical Society.



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Appendix A

See next page



Paul Zimmerman Foundries
637 Hempfield Hill Road
Columbia, PA 17512
dba ERIE LANDMARK COMPANY

Quote / Order Acknowledgement

Date	Estimate #
1/22/2024	57591

Bill To:

Linda Stein
81 New Estate Road
Littleton MA. 01460

Phone #	978-835-0620
Fax #	
e-Mail Address	frondfactor@yahoo.com

P.O. No.	Contact Person	Terms	Ship Via	FOB	Must Have	Due Date
Description		Qty	Finish	Mount	Amount	Total
18 x 10 Rect. Plaque - Bronze Iowan Old Style font, Single border, 360 character allowance MEETING HOUSE.... LITTLETON HISTORICAL COMMISSION	Linda Stein	On Approval	Columbia		726.00	726.00
Cost to ship items weighing 17 - 23 lbs.					35.00	35.00
Ship to billing address above.					0.00	0.00

Please sign and date here.

**Please review art/pricing carefully and fax back to us with
your approval signature or corrections. Customer is
responsible for any errors that appear on final plaque.**

Subtotal	\$761.00
Sales Tax (0.0%)	\$0.00
Total	\$761.00

Phone #	Fax #	E-mail
(717) 285-5253	(717) 285-3166	pwzfoundries@erielandmark.c...