



## **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: 3/14/2024

**Project Title:** Westlawn Cemetery Gravestone/Monument Preservation

**Name of Applicant:** Littleton Cemetery Commission & Littleton Historical Commission

Name of Organization: Town of Littleton

**Address:** P.O. Box 1305 - Littleton, MA 01460

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**CPA Category** (circle all that apply):  Open Space  Historic Preservation  
 Recreation  Community Housing

**CPA Funding Requested:** \$ 9,950.00      **Total Project Cost:** \$ 9,950.00

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

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

**Project Description:**

The Littleton Historical Commission and Cemetery Commission are seeking \$9,950 in funding to continue their gravestone conservation/preservation program at Westlawn Cemetery. This application will fund a fourth phase of this important project. In 2021, the Commissions received funding totaling \$9,950 from the Community Preservation Committee to hire professional consultants to perform a formal conditions assessment, and to complete preliminary rehabilitation/conservation work, on the historic 18th and 19th century gravestones and monuments within the unique and important old section of the cemetery. The conditions assessment revealed that a large number of these gravestones were in a very poor state. Many were broken, in pieces, falling over, delaminating, covered in heavy lichen, or suffering from other forms of degradation.

The first step in reversing the severe deterioration found was for the consultants, Fannin and Lehner, to formally assess and inventory each stone within this section of the cemetery. These efforts consisted of the firm: (1) reviewing necessary background documentation pertaining to the site, (2) examining and photographing every gravestone/monument within the given area, (3) compiling a master list of gravestones/monuments, and (4) plotting the gravestones/monuments on a detailed plot plan to identify those in need of preservation/conservation work. The overall conditions assessment identified 247 gravestones and monuments in need of some form of preservation care. The assessment was utilized to determine which gravestones have been rehabilitated/conserved at Westlawn to date, during the first three phases of this work at the cemetery. This document will continue to help guide future phases of rehabilitation/conservation efforts on site.

During the 2021 season, the professional consultants performed a first phase of preservation efforts on 9 gravestones and monuments in need of rehabilitation/conservation. Their work consisted of professionally cleaning, resetting, capping, drilling/pinning, adhesive repairing, and infilling these gravestones/monuments on site. Extensive documentation of all activities was also performed. In the spring of 2022, the Commissions received funding for a second, full round of gravestone preservation work from the CPC, during which additional monuments received this same rehabilitative attention. The current, third phase of conservation work that is being performed on approximately 17 to 20 gravestones, began in the early summer of 2023, and is set to be complete by the end of June of this year.

The Littleton Cemetery Commission and Historical Commission are seeking additional CPA funds in this current application for a fourth phase of this project, which shall consist of again hiring professionals to continue rehabilitation/conservation work on approximately 17 to 20 further gravestones/monuments within Westlawn's old historical section.

**Project Goals:**

The goal of this project is to continue to preserve the historic gravestones/monuments within the old section of Westlawn Cemetery for future generations. Most of the gravestones/monuments on site are from the 18th and 19th centuries, and memorialize many important historical figures of Littleton's past.

**Project Timeline:**

Upon receiving funding, the Historical Commission will again hire professional preservation consultants to perform the work. The fourth phase of gravestone rehabilitation/conservation efforts will likely begin in early July of 2024, and shall conclude in the early summer of 2025.

**Budget:**

Approximately \$9,750 of the requested \$9,950 in funding would be used to hire and pay for professional preservation consultants to perform the fourth phase of gravestone/monument

rehabilitation/conservation work in the old historic section of Westlawn Cemetery. The remainder of the funds, totaling \$200, will be used to purchase needed earthen materials for the project, such as pea stone and sand. Both materials are critical in the gravestone re-setting process. This budget would cover rehabilitation/conservation work on approximately 17 to 20 additional gravestones/monuments within Westlawn's old historical section.

**Project Support:**

The project has the support of the Littleton Historical Commission, Cemetery Commission, and Historical Society.