



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: 12/27/2024

Project Title: Westlawn Cemetery Gravestone/Monument Preservation

Name of Applicant: Littleton Cemetery Commission & Littleton Historical Commission

Name of Organization: Town of Littleton

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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 fifth 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 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 poor condition. 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 was for the preservation consultants, Fannin and Lehner of Concord, 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.
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 preservation care. This assessment continues to guide ongoing and future phases of rehabilitation/conservation efforts at the site.

Progress to Date:

- **Phase One (2021):**
 - 9 gravestones and monuments were conserved. Work included professional cleaning, resetting, capping, drilling/pinning, adhesive repairs, and infilling.
 - Extensive documentation of all activities was performed.
- **Phase Two (2022 – 2023):**
 - 19 gravestones were professionally conserved. Work included professional cleaning, resetting, capping, drilling/pinning, adhesive repairs, and infilling.
 - Extensive documentation of all activities was performed.
- **Phase Three (2023 – 2024):**
 - 18 gravestones were conserved. Work included professional cleaning, resetting, capping, drilling/pinning, adhesive repairs, and infilling.
 - Extensive documentation of all activities was performed.

- **Phase Four (Ongoing – August 2024 to Summer 2025):**
- This phase began in August 2024 and is expected to conclude in early summer 2025.
- Approximately 18-20 gravestones will be conserved during this phase.

Phase Five Proposal:

Phase Five will begin in the early summer of 2025, shortly after the completion of Phase Four. This phase will focus on conserving an additional 18-20 gravestones within the old section of Westlawn Cemetery. The project will continue to build upon the work completed in previous phases, ensuring that gravestones are conserved, stabilized, and protected for future generations.

Project Goals:

The goal of this project is to continue preserving 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 from Littleton's past.

Project Timeline:

Upon receiving funding, the Historical Commission will hire professional preservation consultants to perform the work. Phase Five of gravestone rehabilitation/conservation efforts will likely begin in the early summer of 2025 following the completion of Phase Four. The work is anticipated to continue through late fall 2025 or the spring of 2026.

Budget:

Approximately \$9,750 of the requested \$9,950 in funding will be used to hire and pay professional preservation consultants to perform gravestone/monument rehabilitation/conservation work in the old historic section of Westlawn Cemetery. The remaining \$200 will be used to purchase needed earthen materials for the project, such as pea stone and sand, which are critical in the gravestone resetting process.

Project Support:

The project has the support of the:

- Littleton Historical Commission
- Cemetery Commission
- Historical Society

Examples of gravestone degradation in the historic section of Westlawn Cemetery (Photos Courtesy of Superintendent Thomas Bailey).

