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City of Newton



David B. Cohen
Mayor

APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING

Submit to Community Preservation Planner
Newton Planning and Development Department
1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459
communitypreservation@ci.newton.ma.us
617-796-1120 ext. 1131

PHASE I

Name of Applicant The Jackson Homestead Museum and Newton Historical Society

Sponsoring Organization, if applicable _____

Mailing Address 527 Washington Street City Newton State MA Zip 02458

Daytime Phone 617-796-1450 (1451) Email www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson

Name of Proposal Restoration of Newton's Historic Burying Grounds

CPA Category (circle all that apply): Open space Historic preservation Recreation Community housing

CPA Funding Requested \$188,277 Total Cost of Proposed Project \$793,844

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Attach answers to the following questions. Applications will be returned as incomplete if all requested information is not provided. Include supporting materials as necessary.

1. **Goals:** What are the goals of the proposed project?
2. **Community Need:** Why is this project needed? Does it address needs identified in existing City plans?
3. **Community Support:** What is the nature and level of support for this project? Include letters of support.
4. **Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for all critical elements?
5. **Credentials:** How will the experience of the applicant contribute to the success of this project?
6. **Success Factors:** How will the success of this project will be measured? Be as specific as possible.
7. **Budget:** What is the total budget for the project and how will CPA funds be spent? All items of expenditure must be clearly identified. Distinguish between hard and soft costs. (NOTE: CPA funds may NOT be used for maintenance.)
8. **Other Funding:** What additional funding sources are available, committed or under consideration? Include commitment letters, if available, and describe any other attempts to secure funding for this project.
9. **Maintenance:** If ongoing maintenance is required for your project, how will it be funded?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Provide the following additional information, as applicable.

10. Documentation that you have control over the site, such as Purchase and Sale Agreement, option or deed.
11. Evidence that the project does not violate any zoning ordinance or any other laws or regulations.
12. Evidence that the proposed site is free of hazardous materials or that there is a plan for remediation in place.
13. Evidence that appropriate professional standards will be followed if construction, restoration or rehabilitation is proposed.
14. Information indicating how this project can be used to achieve additional community benefits.

Refer to the City web site (ci.newton.ma.us) and the Community Preservation Plan for further information.
Form CPA-1 (Revised 10/02)

**THE JACKSON HOMESTEAD MUSEUM
AND
NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Application to the Community Preservation Act

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THE JACKSON HOMESTEAD MUSEUM AND NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Application to the Community Preservation Fund

November 1, 2002

The Jackson Homestead Museum and the Newton Historical Society seek \$188,277 in funding to undertake the first of three phases of a comprehensive project to restore, and make publicly accessible, one of Newton's most important, and most threatened, cultural resources: its three historic burying grounds. Projected to take place over five years, the proposed project has a total budget of \$793,844. The burying grounds consist of: the East Parish Burying Ground, which was the location of the first meeting house in Newton from about 1660; the West Parish Burying Ground, dating from 1781; and the South (also referred to as Evergreen) Burying Ground, established in 1803. Rich repositories of information about Newton's earliest residents, and open spaces of beauty and peace, the burying grounds form a unique open-air museum of Newton's heritage. They are places where visitors can learn about and appreciate the past while enjoying the natural world. Funding from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) would enable the City of Newton, through The Jackson Homestead Museum (JHM), in cooperation with the Newton Historical Society (NHS), to preserve these unique outdoor spaces and ensure that the history they contain is not lost, while turning them into an accessible resource for the study and enjoyment of Newton residents.

PROJECT GOALS:

In 1990, recognizing the crucial need for a coordinated effort to care for the burying grounds, a Master Plan was prepared for the Newton Historical Commission that provides an overview of conditions at the burying grounds and a detailed plan for their restoration and care. A copy of the *Master Plan for the Newton Burying Grounds* is included with this proposal. Age, environmental pollution and past neglect are all factors contributing to the deterioration of the burying grounds. Landscape improvements, structural repairs to stone walls and cemetery structures, and gravestone conservation are all crucially needed.

Certain elements of the Master Plan were identified as urgent needs, designated as having the highest priority because they are either "safety issues...or if left uncorrected would lead to permanent loss of important historic fabric." Funding is requested at this time for the first phase of work in the burying grounds, which would stabilize the three sites and make them safe for further work. Of key importance is the removal of trees and other vegetation that obscure gravestones, make sections of the burying grounds impassable, and, in some cases, have grown so close to the gravestones that they have caused damage. Dead trees need to be eliminated, as they are both unsightly and hazardous to visitors. Another crucial need is the repair and cleaning of the gravestones identified as most at risk. Finally, the East Parish Burying Ground has serious erosion problems that require regrading, and sections of its entrance and perimeter have collapsed, requiring repair and rebuilding.

The Master Plan lists other needs that should follow upon the first, urgent phase of work. Designated as immediate needs, to be undertaken during a second phase of work, these include the rebuilding and repair of a large group of tombs, vaults and stone walls that have collapsed or are otherwise damaged by the passage of time and by weather. Additional gravestones require conservation work to make them stable and easily viewed by visitors. Landscaping needs include lawn rehabilitation and regrading to prevent further erosion, pruning of existing trees and recutting of stumps left standing in the South Burying Ground. For the West Parish and South Burying Grounds, dilapidated fencing would be replaced. Installed along with this new fencing, five-foot-wide gates would provide both sites with the pedestrian access that is now lacking, and would have additional gate panels to allow vehicular (for maintenance) accessibility.

Finally, the Master Plan identifies a set of needs which, while not classified as urgent or immediate, will be key to making the burying grounds attractive and comfortable for visitors. At present, no signs exist at the South and West Parish sites, while only minimal signage exists at the East Parish Burying Ground. New, informative signage describing each site's historical significance is recommended, and would be key to disseminating knowledge and creating interest in visitation. Repairs and repointing of stone walls would be undertaken, along with new fencing and access gates for the East Parish site. The Master Plan also establishes a goal to "have new tree plantings coincide with the plantings shown on the 1901 plan" for the burying grounds. Strategically placed plantings would also be established to provide buffers from the weather. Together, these elements would work to counteract decades of neglect and disuse.

At this time, the JHM/NHS is not requesting funding to undertake the second and third group of recommendations. However, in the future funds will be sought, from the CPA and from other sources, to accomplish the additional phases of work.

The Master Plan's recommendations would result in the revitalization and protection of an invaluable storehouse of local history, together with the re-creation of a resource for community usage that is sadly unused today. Visitors would experience a firsthand connection with their past in a unique type of museum-park. Opportunities for walking, bird watching, and the enjoyment of nature would abound in these peaceful sites. Furthermore, educational opportunities would be greatly enhanced with the increased accessibility and visibility of the burying grounds, and the JHM/NHS projects a series of walking tours and history-related programs utilizing these sites, serving schoolchildren, scholars and the general visitor. Handicapped access is an integral part of the plan for each burying ground. Funding from the CPA is crucial to allow the JHM/NHS and its partners to undertake this project and provide myriad benefits to the community.

COMMUNITY NEED:

All three burying grounds contain unique genealogical, religious, cultural, societal and medical information that may not be recorded elsewhere. Through their stones, one can view the full range of Newton society during the late-17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Dozens of names now associated with Newton's streets, schools, public buildings and landmarks can be found on the

rows of gravestones. Veterans of the Revolutionary War, including General William Hull, are buried there, along with veterans of other early wars. Further, the burying grounds are a place to view artwork both highly skilled and affectingly simple. Simply carved stones sit side by side with those by skilled craftsman: the burying grounds provide a collection of the work of nearly every 18th-century carver working in the greater Boston area, including Newton artisans Ebenezer Howard and Daniel Hastings.

The burying grounds function not only as free museums of Newton's past; they also provide greenspaces in the midst of busy, modern-day Newton. The East Parish Burying Ground is probably the most visible, on the corner of well traveled Centre and Cotton Streets. The West Parish Burying Ground is on the corner of Cherry and River Streets in West Newton, a few blocks from the Massachusetts Turnpike, while the South Burying Ground is perhaps least visible, located on Winchester Street near bustling Needham Street.

As a habitat for birds and wildlife and a place for walking and contemplation, the burying grounds are a potential recreational resource. Although their locations on well-used neighborhood corners means they could experience high visitation, they are presently profoundly under-utilized and mainly inaccessible to foot traffic. Only the East Parish Burying Ground has a pedestrian entrance; the other burying grounds have vehicular access gates that remain locked except for certain holiday weekends. Handicapped access does not exist at any of the burying grounds, and the current overgrowth and deteriorated entrances would make usage nearly impossible for any individuals with disabilities.

A primary impetus for this project is the fact that unless the proposed plan of work is undertaken, a vast amount of historical information is in danger of being lost to present and future generations. Besides being of enormous scholarly value, the burying grounds also represent the antecedents of the men, women and children who populate Newton today. Places where one can find direct connections to one's past are rare and should be valued and cared for, as they allow modern humanity to recall its roots and deepen its understanding of how our society came to be. Newton's unique character has its beginnings in its three burying grounds. Funding from the CPA would show a commitment to valuing the past and to preserving and celebrating Newton's heritage.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

The proposed revitalization of Newton's three burying grounds has received a broad base of support. The Newton Historical Commission was responsible for the development of the Master Plan that forms the basis for the proposed project. If funding is secured, the project would draw on the resources of the NHS and its board, along with City of Newton Departments of Parks and Recreation, Planning, and The Jackson Homestead Museum. In 2001, The Jackson Homestead organized a Burying Grounds Committee, charged with advocacy for the sites. This committee includes committed volunteers who have cared for the burying grounds for many years, along with representatives from the communities surrounding the sites, and from City Hall. The Joint

Board of JHM/NHS recently approved a Strategic Plan that includes a goal of developing public programs to increase awareness and knowledge of the burying grounds, and to engage the community in their appreciation and care.

Volunteers have long played a crucial role in the maintenance and study of the burying grounds and the stones they contain. Newton residents have been instrumental in efforts to photograph and catalogue the stones, and in organizing volunteer crews to help care for the grounds. Each fall the NHS and the JHM organize a community effort to rake leaves and remove branches to prepare one of the burying grounds for the winter. The expansion of this preparation for wintertime to include all three burying grounds is projected to take place as additional volunteers are secured, a goal of the Burying Grounds Committee.

Newton organizations who support the goals of the proposed project include the Newton Conservators, who safeguard Newton's open spaces, and the Newton Historical Commission, along with the Upper Falls Historic District Commission and the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission. Neighborhood groups have been eager to lend their support, seeing new opportunities to utilize nearby open spaces. City Departments which have made it a priority to restore and care for the burying grounds include the Office of the Mayor along with Parks and Recreation, and Planning and Development. Please see Attachment A for copies of letters of support.

TIMELINE:

The attached copy of the Master Plan for the Newton Burying Grounds has broken down a plan of work into three categories: urgent, immediate and future. "Urgent" needs are those that can be considered emergency in nature and should be undertaken as soon as funding is secured. These objectives would be accomplished over Years 1 and 2 of the proposed project, or Phase 1. The JHM/NHS is requesting a grant of \$188,277, which would enable the completion of Phase 1.

"Immediate" needs encompass aspects of the project that the Master Plan denotes as imperative to the preservation of the burying grounds and the unique information they contain. Work on these objectives should begin as soon as the most urgent goals have been accomplished; these would make up Phase 2 of the project and would take place over Years 2 and 3. The JHM/NHS anticipates requesting funding from the CPA in November 2003 to begin Phase 2 of the project, through which the burying grounds would be both re-established as community resources, and preserved for future generations.

Needs labeled "future" by the Master Plan include the completion of stone conservation, repair of walls, planting of trees and shrubs, and, of key importance, the installation of appropriate signage. Along with the renovation of entrances to make the sites accessible, the creation of new informational signs would make the burying grounds welcoming places and help ensure that potential visitors are aware of the historical significance of the sites. This would contribute greatly to the project goal of increased usage of the burying grounds. These "future" needs

would comprise Phase 3 of the project; their completion is projected during Years 4 and 5. The JHM/NHS projects applying to the CPA in November 2005 for funding for this last phase of work

It should be noted that due to the efforts of a committed cadre of volunteers, the burying grounds have not experienced major additional deterioration since the completion of the Master Plan. Along with the yearly fall cleanups organized by JHM, these volunteers undertake ongoing maintenance, especially at the Burying Ground most at risk, the East Parish Burying Ground.

Please see the timeline in Attachment B for a detailed list of project elements and the plan for their completion.

CREDENTIALS:

The Newton Historical Society and The Jackson Homestead Museum would oversee this project. The Newton Historical Society (NHS) is a private, not-for-profit membership organization. The Jackson Homestead Museum (JHM) is the City of Newton's history museum, accredited by the American Association of Museums. The City of Newton opened The Jackson Homestead in 1950. Within a few years, The Friends of The Jackson Homestead was established, and in 1982 the organization changed its name to the Newton Historical Society. In 1984, the organization adopted a new mission, changing its emphasis to a role as a city museum rather than a historic house. Major capital improvements to the Museum were made: two permanent exhibitions, the Children's Gallery and the Abolition Room were installed; and handicapped accessibility was established.

Since receiving its accreditation in 1992, JHM has enlarged the scope of its mission. Greater emphasis has been placed on reaching and involving a broad public. It has directed its collecting to concentrate on well-documented items with a Newton provenance. Exhibitions are enriched by greater interpretive content and are placed in the broader context of national and international history. Public and educational programming has increased in scope, content, and quantity. JHM has increased its involvement in new media, including cable television and the Internet. The importance of maintaining the integrity of the building and the site has led to considerable interior and exterior capital projects, including major preservation of the building's exterior. Reconfiguration of interior spaces to increase the amount of area open to the public also reflects JHM's aim to expand its services.

With a new strategic plan in place, JHM/NHS is working to revitalize its commitment to the education of Newton's citizens both young and old. Exhibitions and programs are continually expanding, and the organization has assumed a more public role with the arrival of Director David Olson in 2001. Together, the Joint Board and staff of JHM and the NHS work to enrich the life of Newton residents by helping them become familiar with Newton's past, and preserving that past for future generations.

SUCCESS FACTORS:

The establishment of a safe environment within the burying grounds would, first and foremost, measure the success of the proposed project. Through the removal of dead trees and branches that could fall on gravestones, other monuments, and visitors to the sites, the burying grounds would become immediately more safe, secure and accessible for both visitors and the workers who would perform the remainder of project tasks.

The burying grounds' stones would receive invaluable preservation measures. As both historical documents and as individual works of art, these stones would be not only safeguarded but would also be made decipherable for usage by genealogical researchers and other students and scholars.

At this time, a local historian is working on a history of the burying grounds. Her work would be facilitated by both ease of access to the sites and by the conservation of the many damaged and otherwise threatened gravestones.

With the completion of the proposed phases of work, the burying grounds would immediately become more accessible for both handicapped, older adult and general visitors. As a place for recreation such as walking and bird watching, the burying grounds would become sites that enrich community life. Once basic safety issues have been attended to, these areas could be used for public programs for schoolchildren and everyone with an interest in history, genealogy, art, and nature. Site improvements in the Master Plan are designed to facilitate future maintenance and preserve safe conditions for the gravestones. These include the use of gravel around each stone to prevent future overgrowth by grasses and saplings, which could mature and have a devastating effect. Bumpers would then be used on mowers to prevent any further damage to the stones.

BUDGET:

The JHM/NHS requests a grant in the amount of \$188,277 to carry out Phase 1, or the urgent phase of the Master Plan for Newton's Burying Grounds. Funding in this amount would allow the two organizations to undertake the most vitally needed work of the plan to restore and revitalize the city's burying grounds. The total budget for the Master Plan is now projected at \$793,844. The JHM/NHS plans to apply to the CPA for additional funding for the project in three phases, with another application, for Phase 2, submitted in November 2003, and an application for Phase 3 submitted in November 2005.

The original plan of work for the proposed project contains the following elements: landscaping, with estimates provided by William Pressley & Associates, Inc., Landscape Architects; structural work on vaults, tombs and masonry, with estimates provided by Structural Technology, structural engineers; and stone conservation, with estimates provided by Fannin/Lehner, preservation consultants. Updated project costs are provided in Attachment C. These costs have been updated to 2002 numbers in consultation with the City of Newton's arborist, Fannin/Lehner, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. It should be noted that the City of

Newton's arborist requested an increase in the amount needed to undertake work in the South Burying Ground during Phase 1, to \$20,000, because of additional deterioration at, and the difficulty of access to, the site.

Other elements included in the request for funding for Phase 1 include the removal of dead and overgrown trees and other vegetation for the other two burying grounds. Additional work in the East Parish Burying Ground entails the regrading and rebuilding of the entrance to the site along with other collapsed wall sections. The total amount requested for landscaping and structural work is \$68,423.

The Master Plan designates 109 gravestones, from all three sites, as in urgent need of care and receiving the highest priority in the plan of work. Stone conservators would undertake treatment of these stones that would include: resetting, leveling, and re-inserting the stones into their original bases; the adhesive repair of broken stones; and cleaning to remove lichen and other material. Some stones would require the application of consolidants to stabilize their surface. Many gravestones have fallen and are lying loose in the burying grounds. These need to be evaluated, treated, and returned to their original sites. While conducting their survey, conservators frequently found buried fragments of stone and stones that are badly sunken and in danger of disappearing. These received the highest priority for work, as were those stones that are: "Tilting severely to a degree dangerous to the integrity of the stone and to visitors." The stones currently being stored at JHM will be evaluated as well, and replaced in their original sites if their stability is assured. Conservators will thoroughly document their work. The total projected budget for Phase 1 stone conservation is \$119,854.

The attached Master Plan provides a detailed description of project costs, in Section V, Priorities and Costs.

OTHER FUNDING:

2003? Support from the CPA would be crucial to the JHM/NHS's ability to secure additional funding for the proposed project. Funding for the Master Plan for the Newton Burying Grounds will also be sought from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF), administered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. An application will be submitted to the MPPF in June 2002. The MPPF requires that applicants must have matching funds in place at the time they submit an application; the JHM/NHS would not be able to submit such an application unless CPA funding is obtained to provide the required match.

Staff at the JHM/NHS will continue to seek additional sources of funding for particular aspects of the project, using CPA funds, if awarded, as both leverage and as evidence of the city's commitment to the care of the burying grounds. For example, The Jackson Homestead Museum, as a City of Newton department, is eligible to apply to the Department of Environmental Management for funds from its Massachusetts Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program. This program could provide funding for the preservation of the burying grounds and also for their maintenance, as well as for public education efforts such as school programs, workshops, brochures, signage and other interpretive elements.

MAINTENANCE:

As the burying grounds are city-owned, crews from the city's Department of Parks and Recreation would continue to undertake their ongoing maintenance. The Master Plan sets a schedule for care of the sites. This schedule includes biannual mowing and leaf removal once each fall. Volunteers will continue to be a vital part of maintenance, undertaking fall cleanups with leaf raking and debris removal.

THE JACKSON HOMESTEAD MUSEUM AND NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Application to the Community Preservation Fund

November 1, 2002

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- (10) The three burying grounds are owned by The City of Newton.
- (11) Work entailed in this report meet all Zoning and Permitting Requirements.
- (12) As burying grounds utilized in the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries, the proposed sites of work are free of hazardous materials.
- (13) If the proposed project receives CPA funding, the work required will be put out to bid in compliance with the standard practices of the City of Newton. For the work entailed, appropriate professional standards will be required of all contractors.
- (14) If funded, the proposed project to restore Newton's three historic burying grounds would leverage a range of benefits for the community. Once the burying grounds become safe, accessible and welcoming places for visitors, these spaces could begin to be utilized in myriad ways:
- Education programs could be undertaken in the burying grounds for school groups and for adult groups with an interest in history, genealogy, religion, botany, and art.
 - Newton residents would experience the burying grounds as new open spaces for walking, bird watching and as park-like spaces that are available in the midst of the city.
 - Residents would be able to conduct formal or informal research on their ancestors or the early residents of Newton.
 - The burying grounds could become community meeting places for neighbors and fellow city residents.
 - The appearance of the sites would be transformed, making them places of beauty and assets to the city's public face.

THE JACKSON HOMESTEAD MUSEUM AND NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Application to the Community Preservation Fund

November 1, 2002

DECISION GUIDELINES FOR CPA CATEGORIES

Once restored, and made safe and accessible, the burying grounds will fulfill the following criteria for the following CPA Categories:

OPEN SPACE

- Enable the development of passive recreation opportunities such as walking, jogging, cross-country skiing or community gardening.
- Serve as suitable sites for nature-related education, scientific study or observation and enjoyment of nature.
- Enhance public access ... including handicapped access.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- Support the preservation and/or restoration of municipally-owned resources that are on the National or State Historic Registers, or that have been landmarked or found to be “preferably preserved” by the Newton Historical Commission.
- Encourage protection of resources that retain their historic integrity, in terms of location, context, design, style, workmanship and materials.
- Enable access to the resource by the public.
- Increase public awareness of the need for historic preservation through communication and consultation with the Newton Historical Society, The Jackson Homestead, the Newton Historical Commission, local historic districts, and other existing organizations within the City of Newton.

(continued)

RECREATION

- Provide opportunities to meet the recreation needs of the residents of the City of Newton.
- Meet the recreation needs of the greatest number of residents possible.
- Serve passive recreation needs.
- Provide access for disabled residents.

Attachment A



David B. Cohen
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

Telefax
(617) 796-1113

E-mail
Dcohen@ci.newton.ma.us

November 1, 2002

Community Preservation Committee
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have attached several applications for funding under the Community Preservation Act for your consideration. These projects all come within the jurisdiction and control of various city departments.

City Hall Lighting Restoration

Installation of original light fixtures in corridor and public spaces. This would eliminate the fluorescent fixtures that were added in the 1970's. These fixtures would be replaced with a pendant fixture reminiscent of the original fixtures.

City Hall War Memorial Copula and Balustrade Restoration

Exterior painting of the war memorial copula and the balustrade. The City Hall balustrade was replaced nine years ago when the roof was repaired. The balustrade was reconstructed using lead coated copper. Its color, gray, is not in keeping with the original white finish. The same holds true for the War Memorial Cupola.

City Hall Window Restoration

Window renovations to the Alderman Chamber and War Memorial windows. The current windows have started to rot, particularly at the frames and need immediate repair to prevent further damage. We propose to remove and renovate the windows, installing insulated energy efficient glass in the existing frames.

Flowed Meadow Open Space/Recreation Space Creation

The Flowed Meadow Improvement Project will carry out the recommendations of the Flowed Meadow Planning Group to link Auburndale, West Newton, and the MDC's Forest Grove Reservation for passive recreation and wildlife habitat preservation purposes. Funding for general construction and materials is being requested, with Eagle

1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

www.ci.newton.ma.us



DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

Scout candidates and neighborhood volunteers completing the portions of the project not requiring heavy equipment.

Forte Park Open Space/Recreation Space Creation

Phase II development of Forte Park will complete the restoration of the park. Forte Park is a six acre park located in a mixed residential and commercial district off of California St. in the Nonatum village of Newton. Phase II development will provide sports and security lighting for the athletic fields and peripheral jogging/exercise paths. It will add street lighting for the entryway leading into the park off of California St. In the past, Forte Park was a prime site for the local bocci players to play. Over the years the courts deteriorated to the point that they became non-existent. Part of the Phase II plan is to reestablish those courts. Landscaping is proposed in the form of additional plantings along the present entry drive and in the picnic areas. Other plantings will be used to provide additional screening for the residential and industrial neighbors and to act as a natural border between the active and passive activities within the park. To aid these plantings, additional irrigation is proposed. To interconnect Forte Park to other parts of the greenway along the Charles River, a gravel pedestrian walking/jogging path with exercise stations along the periphery of the Park will be developed as well.

Replacement of Docks at Crystal Park

Crystal Lake is a major swim facility that services the needs of the Newton residents during the summer months. The lake is a 24 acre site that allows for swimming as well as boating and fishing. Since it is a large, open natural body of water, the docks serve as an integral part of the facility during the swim season. The docks are set up to delineate the swim areas, allowing guards accessibility to a larger area with the placement of lifeguard chairs on the deck. It also allows swim instructors to carry out instruction from the docks, overseeing a large number of activities simultaneously. The proposal is to replace the docks with a new dock system. The present docks are in disrepair and need constant adjustment, which compromises the structural integrity of the docks. There is age and usage wear on the dock channeling and decking that creates a hazardous condition that infringes on the functionality and safety of the docks.

Historic Burial Grounds Restoration

The Jackson Homestead - The City of Newton's Museum, in cooperation with the Newton Historical Society, requests a grant of \$188,277 from the Community Preservation Act to undertake the first phase of a five-year project to preserve, and create access to, Newton's three historic burying grounds. Working from a Master Plan for Newton's Burying Grounds completed by the Newton Historical Commission in 1990, the Newton Historical Society and The Jackson Homestead Museum plan to implement this major revitalization project with a total projected cost of \$793,799. With funding from the first round of the CPA, the most urgently needed work could commence and the burying grounds would begin to become fully utilized community resources. The East Parish, West Parish, and South Burying Grounds are both history museums and parks. Filled with irreplaceable artwork, the burying grounds are also open spaces containing vital information about the city's first settlers and about early America. However, at this time, these beautiful old landscapes are overgrown and hazardous. The intricately carved

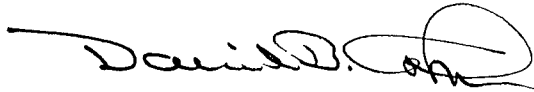
stones and monuments therein are deteriorating and endangered by vandalism, neglect, weather, and the passage of time. CPA funds will begin to restore, preserve, and make accessible, these historic community open spaces.

Newton Corner Library Renovation

The goal of the Newton Corner Branch Library project is to completely renovate and restore the exterior of this historically significant building. One of the last intact Greek Revival houses in Newton Corner, this 1845 building was purchased by the City from the Chaffin family in 1931 for use as a Library. The building is an integral part of the landscape of the Farlow-Kenrick Park Historic District, anchoring the passive open space that is an important component of the area.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

David B. Cohen
Mayor

DBC: smp