

January 10, 2003

Dear Newton CPA Committee Members,

The Burying Grounds Committee of The Jackson Homestead Museum provides the following information in response to questions from CPA committee members concerning the future maintenance of Newton's three historic burying grounds, with particular regard to the maintenance that will be required once the proposed preservation, restoration and accessibility project is complete.

The Burying Grounds Committee of The Jackson Homestead recognizes the need to provide continued maintenance for the three burying grounds after the completion of this project. We do not want, nor will we allow, these historic treasures to deteriorate again to the state in which they are found today. Although we do not have a detailed plan ready for you at this time we are investigating several options.

Our rough estimates for the annual costs to maintain the grounds are based on yearly tree work and continued monitoring and conservation of the stones and tombs. In round numbers, the estimate for this undertaking is \$10,000 per year. The Burying Grounds Committee is investigating the possibility of establishing a City trust fund for the burying grounds that would be supported wholly or in part through a campaign that would raise funds sufficient to generate this yearly amount. We are also looking into the possibility of having the Trustees of The Jackson Homestead, or forming a new group of Trustees specifically for oversight of the Burying Grounds, administer these funds.

In support of the work paid for by these funds, The Jackson Homestead would continue to organize volunteers to undertake spring and fall clean-ups at each of the burying grounds. Volunteers during these clean-ups will undertake trash and fallen tree limb pick-up as well as leaf removal. The City's Parks and Recreation Department would continue to provide the care and support at current levels including biannual mowing and the removal of debris collected by the volunteer groups.

The Burying Grounds Committee will continue to provide information as details of our plans are finalized. We are committed to having a plan in place by the end of this multi-year, multi-phase project.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile proposal.

For the Burying Grounds Committee of The Jackson Homestead Museum,
David A. Olson, Executive Director, The Jackson Homestead