

Historic Burying Grounds Preservation



*CPC Working Session Materials
March 16, 2011*

I. Minimum Scope and Additional CPC Funding to Begin Tomb Preservation Efforts

The current level of degradation and the continued threat of loss of the City’s historic burying grounds to the effects of age, environmental pollution and lack of maintenance have prompted Historic Newton’s efforts to preserve these landmarks. To begin to put this next phase of tomb preservation work into action, \$84,946.33 additional CPC funding is needed. By our estimates, this funding would cover the scope of our project Base Bid—the tombs assessed to be in need of immediate attention.

Base Bid - Preservation of collapsed tombs at South Burying Ground and immediate safety hazards at East Parish	\$219,000
Project Management	\$13,623
15% Contingency on Base Bid.....	\$32,850
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Structures North Fee to Rebid Project.....	\$2,000
Total:	\$267,473
 Amount of CPC Funds Remaining	 \$182,526.67
Minimum Funds to Start Project:	\$84,946.33

II. Fence Work

The fence-work outlined in our project scope would include: the replacement of dilapidated fencing at South and West Parish, the installation of five-foot-wide gates at both sites to provide pedestrian access, and the addition of other gate panels to aid maintenance vehicles.

Our Master Plan (1990) included assessments from qualified professionals which, at all three sites, highlighted fence damage and distortions. It was concluded that some amount of damage had been caused to the fence surrounding South Burying Ground by the lumber yard operations in close proximity. At West, defects include poorly secured base supports and distorted segments in need of repair or replacement.

In 2006 the Committee approved the use of CPA funding to restore and replace the fencing at these burying grounds, but had not yet allocated the funding for this phase of work. In the 2006 budget, the line items for this work total \$255,500. Our estimates today, received from Premier Fence, LLC, shows that this figure has inflated to \$287,000-306,600.

Similar fence work has also been slated for East Parish Burying Ground at a later project phase. In the case of East Parish, the land was deeded to the Town by the Jackson family with the proviso that a fence be maintained forever. It is exactly this forethought that has ensured that some of the oldest, most fragile and the most evocative of the city's historic sites have endured. Maintaining these fences will continue to protect these cultural heritage sites from vandals and encroaching neighbors. The new fences and gates will also provide an aesthetic boost to these sites, encouraging visitor-ship while increasing accessibility to these under-utilized open spaces.

III. Project Support and Volunteer Maintenance

Once the burying grounds have been fully restored, ongoing maintenance can be separated into two major categories: landscape and stone conservation. In these areas work can be further divided between those items that must be handled by paid professionals and those items that can be accomplished by an organized volunteer effort.

Stone conservation and maintenance will be a continued issue at each of the three burying grounds. Continual monitoring of the stones will address problems as they arise. A trained volunteer staff will be able to provide yearly maintenance including repair of stones with minor damage by the elements and vandalism and removal of mosses and lichens growth. The National Center for Preservation Technology Training has offered to assist us in putting together a hands-on volunteer training workshop, at an estimated cost of \$2,000. Volunteer training is a cost effective way to continue to care for these sites and engage the community.

The City's Parks and Recreation Department has committed to continue to provide the professional level of care and support that is currently in place including mowing and removal of debris collected by volunteer groups.



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NEWTON
Parks & Recreation
ROBERT J. DERUBEIS
COMMISSIONER

January 19, 2011

Community Preservation Act Committee
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Community Preservation Act Committee:

In reference to the Jackson Homestead and Museum and the Newton Historical Society's application to the Community Preservation Act, I, as Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department, wholeheartedly approve of their project to restore and to make publicly accessible its three historical burying grounds. The three burying grounds consist of East Parish Burying Grounds, West Parish Burying Grounds, and the South Burying Grounds.

Due to a limited budget and resources, the Parks and Recreation Department would do the best it can with our current maintenance program. Anything in addition to our current maintenance program should result in additional funding and resources as well as continued volunteer commitment.

I wish the Jackson Homestead and Museum and the Newton Historical Society success in their pursuit for funding from the Community Preservation Act for this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Cc: Cynthia S. Stone, Director, Jackson Homestead and Museum

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IV. Projected Budget

<u>Projected Expenditures</u>	
Tomb Restoration*	\$423,189.00
*based on Folan's bid	
Improved Fences/Gates.....	\$306,600.00
Staff Management*.....	\$27,247.00
*Frank Nichols/Laura Costello	
Volunteer Training.....	\$2,000.00
<u>Contingency (5%).....</u>	<u>\$25,539.45</u>
Total Projected Expenditures.....	\$784,575.45
Total Projected Expenditures.....	\$796,987.80
<u>Funds Remaining from Phase 2a.....</u>	<u>\$182,526.67</u>
Amount Requested from CPC.....	\$602,048.78

Project Management Roles and Responsibilities

Historic Newton's burying grounds preservation budget includes staff time for Laura Costello, Burying Grounds Project Manager and Newton Historical Society, Inc. employee. Ms. Costello's key role is to synthesize the efforts and contributions from consultants, contractors, City departments, and Historic Newton's Burying Grounds Committee to keep the project organized, on time, and within budget. In addition, Frank Nichols, Special Projects Manager, provides invaluable technical expertise and will supervise the on-site work. It is estimated that Mr. Nichols will spend 1-2 days per week overseeing the tomb work once it is underway.

Research on Additional Funding Sources

Historic Newton hired Cindy Hall-Koure, a professional grant writer, to seek and assess opportunities for additional project funding. Ms. Koure has concluded that at this time there are no external sources of funding to be obtained. Many large granting organizations, for which portions of the project might be eligible, such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, are already being solicited by Historic Newton's for the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds preservation project.