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On 12 March 2019, the CPC voted 8-0 to approve this request to spend \$8,690 on a supplemental scope of work at the historic burying grounds.

21 February 2019

Peter Sargent, Chair  
Community Preservation Committee  
Planning Department, Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA

Dear Chairperson Sargent and Members of the Community Preservation Committee,


Historic Newton appreciates the funding you provided for the multi-phase comprehensive project to restore, and make publicly accessible, Newton’s three historic burying grounds. The purpose of this letter is to point to next steps.

Starting with a CPA grant in 2003, the restoration was projected to take place over many years. A major portion of the project was completed in 2016. However, thanks to frugal budget management and a \$50,000 matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (2015), there is still a balance of funds. Last year (FY2018) we sought and received approval from the CPC to apply \$3,900 toward a gravestone restoration project at East Parish. That has been accomplished and the final report is forthcoming. We also promised to return with additional plans for preservation at all three burying grounds, with a request to spend remaining unspent CPA funds already appropriated for the burying grounds.

We are at a turning point as we revisit the master plan and scope out next priorities. This planning will involve multiple City departments as well as community volunteers. Meanwhile, prompted by a major tree fall in 2018, we were able to assess a project deemed critical to the preservation of South Parish gravestones. I have attached that report and the project budget, for a start date this spring. It is our sincere hope that you will approve using a portion of the existing unspent grant to fund this important project.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Lisa S. Dady  
Director

**CPC staff note:** This request is to spend the \$8,690 highlighted on the following page from CPA funds previously appropriated but not yet spent for these City-owned historic burying grounds. The current total of these remaining unspent CPA funds is \$84,008.20.

Cc: Robert DeRubeis, Commissioner, Parks and Recreation, City of Newton  
Harry O. Lohr, Jr., Chair, Historic Newton Burying Grounds Committee

JACKSON HOMESTEAD AND MUSEUM  
DURANT-KENRICK HOUSE AND GROUNDS  
HISTORIC BURYING GROUNDS PRESERVATION  
NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



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**Fiscal Year 2019 Burying Ground Preservation – Preliminary Project**

Activity	Cost	Purpose
Survey conducted in August-September 2018. The most damaged and vulnerable gravestones at the site were identified in a survey.	\$0  (In-kind services from Historic Newton staff and Trustee.)	See attached report: <i>South Burying Ground, Survey in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall, September 2018.</i>
Gravestone conservation for 14 gravestones and one obelisk at South Parish Burying Ground.	Estimated at \$7,900	Email quote received from Historic Gravestone Services on December 18, 2019.  If approved by the CPC, Historic Newton will proceed with acquiring three written quotes per City of Newton Purchasing guidelines.
Contingency at 10%	\$790	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,690</b>	

**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**September 2018**



This survey documents the direct damage and indirect effects of a large tree fall at the South Burying Ground in March 2018. The survey also identifies other conservation issues discovered in the vicinity of the tree fall. The fallen tree was carefully removed using heavy equipment and other tools by a team headed by Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry with the City of Newton. The survey was conducted on August 7, 2018 by Cynthia Cowan, Manager of the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds & Anne Larner Educator, Sara Goldberg, Curator of Manuscripts & Photographs, and Harry O. Lohr, Jr., Chair of The Jackson Homestead Board of Trustees and Burying Grounds Committee. Historic Newton's Director Lisa Dady also assisted on-site.

**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #1 – White Marble Footstone**

*Description*

Inscription may read CHII or CDII.

This footstone was found standing alone and loose by back fence of the burying ground.

Relocate and reset the stone.



Additional Notes





**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #2 – White Sandstone Gravestone**

*Description*

Appears to be in the correct location.

Reads “Sacred to the Memory of...” The other inscriptions have faded.

Ground cover in the swath of the tree fall is overtaking the gravestone. Once cleared, chips or other damage to the gravestone may be revealed.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #3 – Sarah Ann Fogg  
and Harriet Fogg**

*Description*

Slate gravestone with willow and urn. Reads “Sarah Ann Fogg died September \_\_, 1838 and Harriet Fogg died July 28, 1839.”

The top of front face of the gravestone has cleaved. One large broken piece has parts of the inscription, but some pieces are missing.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #4 – Mary Elizabeth Fogg**

*Description*

Slate tone with willow and urn. Reads “Mary Elizabeth Fogg died May 1838.”

The gravestone has broken from its base and at least one other piece is missing.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #5 – Sally Keyes**

*Description*

Marble gravestone. Reads “Sally Keyes died October 18, 1811.”

The gravestone has broken from its from base. A miscellaneous piece resides beside it.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #6 – Stephen Keyes**

*Description*

Marble gravestone. Reads “Stephen Keyes died March \_\_, 18\_\_.”

A broken gravestone found near what appears to be its marble base.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #7 – Elizabeth Keyes**

*Description*

Marble gravestone. Reads “Elizabeth Keyes, age 23, died August 25, \_\_\_\_.”

The gravestone has broken from its base.

Found near other members of the Keyes family.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #8 – Jonathan Wheeler**

*Description*

Marble stone gravestone. Reads “Jonathan Wheeler died July 5, 181\_, age 52.”

The gravestone is broken from its base. Photographed earlier under the fallen tree, the stone was later leaned by groundskeepers against the gravestone for “Leonard Heaney” or “Hearsey.” Subsequently, during the survey, laid flat on the ground by Sara Goldberg and Harry Lohr.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #9 – Hannah Cheney**

*Description*

Small white marble gravestone. Reads “Hannah, daughter of Norman M. and Sarah Cheney, died September [?], 1846y.”

The gravestone is broken from its base and is leaning against a tree.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #10 – John Handy**

*Description*

Small marble gravestone. Reads “ohn Handy, son of Samuel and Jane A. died December 1817, aged [either] 3 or 8.”

The graverstone is broken from its base. Broken bud motif.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #11 – Marble Stone**

*Description*

Marble stone, randomly placed on the ground. Possibly a footstone.

One piece of the stone appears to display an “H.”

Relocate and reset the stone.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #12 – Samuel H. Hall**

*Description*

Marble gravestone. Reads "Samuel H. Hall, 1808-1888."

The gravestone has been knocked back from its base. There are at least three pieces, including the gravestone, a small piece broken from the gravestone, and the base. Pins in broken base are visible.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #13 – Emily August**

*Description*

Buried, broken marble gravestone or part of a gravestone, now in the ground adjacent to its base.

Reads "Emily August, daughter of EF & LM TH[?], Sep\_\_\_."

Excavate and reset the gravestone.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #14 – Marble Artifact**

*Description*

Marble artifact—a piece of a gravestone possibly—  
randomly located and buried in the ground.

No inscription is evident.

Excavate and assess.



Additional Notes



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**South Burying Ground  
Newton, Massachusetts  
Survey of Damage in the Area of the 2018 Tree Fall**

**Survey Stone #15 – Marble Obelisk**

*Description*

Marble obelisk with urn motif.

There are multiple inscriptions on three sides of the obelisk  
representing more than one person, including on different  
faces the dates and phrases “18\_\_,” “1900,” and “aged 9  
years.”

Debris wedged under base. Clear debris and reset.



Additional Notes



Document preparation and photographs by  
Harry O. Lohr, Jr., Chair  
Historic Newton Burying Grounds Committee

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