

Final Report - Whipple Beal Fence Restoration

March 23, 2020

Community Preservation funds were used to restore the historic Whipple Beal fence at Newton Cemetery, a cast iron fence that was in an extreme state of deterioration. The fence is the last remaining piece of decorative iron fencing in Newton Cemetery, and it encloses the Whipple Beal lot where the first burial took place in the Cemetery in 1856.

The first step was to hire a consultant to document the pre-restoration condition of the fence, develop project specifications, manage the bid process, and oversee the restoration process. CPA funds were used to hire RDLA/Ray Dunetz Landscape Architecture of Boston, MA

After the drawings and specifications were completed, the project was publicly bid through the City of Newton Purchasing Department, with Cassidy Brothers Forge of Rowley, MA the successful bidder. Cassidy labeled and disassembled the existing cast iron fence pieces and brought to their shop on custom built pallets. They were then cleaned and repaired as necessary. Missing parts and elements too damaged to repair were cast at Henry Perkins Foundry in Bridgewater, MA from molds taken of existing elements. The molds, or patterns, of the various elements including the willow tree and lamb, posts and medallion tops were given to Newton Cemetery, and are now in safe storage.

When all the repairs were complete and new castings fabricated, the fence pieces were reassembled into larger sections and painted at Cassidy's shop, then brought to Newton Cemetery for final assembly on site. The fence was reset onto new granite footings provided and installed by the Friends of Newton Cemetery.

A rededication ceremony was held on June 2, 2019. Members of the design and restoration team, Newton Cemetery Trustees and staff, the Mayor, City Councilors, Community Preservation committee members, many Whipple Beal family descendants, and numerous guests were in attendance.

Cost Summary

Original CPA appropriation	\$60,000
Design & Specifications	\$4,460
Restoration	\$53,740
Overall Project Cost	\$58,200
Unspent CPA funds	\$1,800