



Newton Cemetery Corporation

A Beautiful Garden Cemetery Serving Greater Boston

March 8, 2012

Community Preservation Committee
c/o Planning and Development Department
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

RE: **Preservation of the Newton Civil War Memorial**

Dear Community Preservation Committee Members:

I am pleased to hear that the pre-proposal for the Civil War Memorial preservation work is on the agenda for the next Community Preservation Committee meeting on March 27, 2012. On behalf of the Newton Cemetery Corporation, I would like to express full support for the funding application.

The Newton Civil War Memorial provides a permanent tribute honoring Newton residents who gave their lives in the Civil War. It is an important historic landmark in the City of Newton, and its preservation would restore the memorial to its original splendor. In its current state, the memorial has become unstable and unsafe. The preservation is essential to prevent further damage, and to ensure the safety of those visiting.

I understand that the goal is to have this project complete by July 2014- the 150th anniversary of the Memorial's initial unveiling. I look forward to a community event to celebrate the 2nd unveiling of the Civil War Memorial!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Buras
President and Treasurer

Received 13 March 2012

Susan D. Abele
23 Russell Court
Newton, MA 02460

Ms. Leslie Burg, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
Newton City Hall
Newton, Massachusetts

Dear Leslie,

It has been my great privilege to do research on the Civil War monument in the Newton Cemetery in preparation for the CPA proposal for the Civil War Monument Restoration Project.

In response to a question as to whether we could confirm city ownership of the lot, I found a deed in the City Archives, which provides unequivocal proof of ownership. That the deed was preserved also reinforces the high value that we should place on our city's archives.

The description on the document, quoted below, confirms ownership as well the deeply felt duty and responsibility felt by the citizens of Newton in 1864.

Deed of Lot for a Monument
For Newton soldiers who lost their lives to save
American Freedom.
Newton Cemetery Corporation to
Town of Newton
February 12, 1864

A compelling adjunct to this deed is a resolution in the selectmen's minutes that same year, which authorizes money for a history of Newton to be written so that town's contributions to the war effort would be thoroughly reported. The *History of Newton*, by Samuel Francis Smith, became a very lengthy work and was not published until 1880, but it fulfills the goals of the selectmen's appropriation.

The imperative to create and maintain the Monument is clear, and there should be no question as to the City's responsibility to honor that effort.

Sincerely,



Susan D. Abele
Archivist

City of Newton



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

John MacGillivray, VSO
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449

Telephone
617-796-1090
Facsimile
617-796-1094
TTY
617-796-1089

March 27, 2012

Community Preservation Committee
c/o Department of Planning and Development
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Preservation of the Newton Soldiers' Monument

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Commission:

It has often been said that "...Poor is the nation without heroes but beggared is the nation that has them and forgets them..." Given the current state of the Civil War Soldiers' Monument I was concerned that Newton was on the verge of becoming a "beggared" city. Hopefully, that will not happen.

On behalf of war veterans from the City of Newton, I am writing to pledge my support for the preservation of the Civil War Soldiers' Monument located in Newton Cemetery. This monument has suffered neglect for a very long time, and I am happy to hear that there has been renewed focus on its preservation.

Though the Civil War officially ended in 1865, the Newton monument was erected a year earlier due to the heavy loss of Newton men early in the war. In 1862, at least 14 Newton soldiers died in battle or from disease. In 1865, five Newton men perished in one day at the Battle of Gettysburg. The responsibility for preserving this monument lies with those of us who enjoy the liberties these men protected.

It is my understanding that the restoration project would be completed by July 2014, in time for the 150th birthday of the monument's dedication. I would be eager to have our department participate in its re-dedication and know that veterans, war historians, and citizens of Newton would welcome the opportunity as well.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John MacGillivray
Veterans Services Officer
City of Newton

E-Mail: jmacgillivray@newtonma.gov