



527 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02458
TELEPHONE 617-796-1450
FAX 617-552-7228
www.historicnewton.org

18 August, 2020

Mark Armstrong, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
Planning Department, Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA

Dear Chairperson Armstrong 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. In FY2018 we sought and received approval from the CPC to apply \$3,900 toward a gravestone restoration project at East Parish Burying Ground, and in FY2019 we sought and received approval from the CPC to apply \$8,690 toward gravestone conservation at South Burying Ground. Both of those have been accomplished; the final report on the latter 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.

For some time now, Historic Newton and Newton's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department (co-stewards of the property) have been aware of the need to replace (and possibly add to) the fence at the City-owned South Burying Ground (on Winchester Street, and abutting National Lumber). The project is on Historic Newton's FY21 outcomes list with the Mayor's office. It has now become even more urgent as a number of Newton citizens have been pressing to have the work done, especially the businesses abutting the burying ground to the north. The Mayor and other citizens have noted the need to remove the unsightly, derelict, and inappropriate fence along the very public east side (Winchester Street). Historic Newton and Parks & Recreation propose addressing the fence project in three phases: Phase 1 is the north and east sides of the property, Phase 2 will be the south side, and Phase 3 will be the west side (or back side) of the property. This proposal is for Phase 1 although we would like to return with a specific proposal for Phases 2 and 3.

I have attached a report outlining the current condition of the fence and detailing the proposed action, together with a project budget, for a start date this fall. 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.

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



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa S. Dady".

Lisa S. Dady
Director

cc: Nicole Banks, Commissioner, Parks, Recreation, and Culture, City of Newton
Harry O. Lohr, Jr., Co-Chair, Historic Newton Burying Grounds Committee
Sarah W.S. Kish, Co-Chair, Historic Newton Burying Grounds Committee



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PROPOSED BUDGET

Fiscal Year 2020 Burying Ground Preservation – **Fence at South Burying Grounds (Phase 1)**

Activity	Cost	Purpose/Notes
Boundary and topographic survey of South Burying Ground.	Estimated at \$9,100	After extensive research, Historic Newton has been unable to find a survey in its collections. DPW has indicated that there is not one within their files either. Before starting the project the contractors will need to know where the boundary lines are. The topographic survey will be just the areas along the north and east fence. This estimate is from Beta Group, based on its contract with the City.
<u>NORTH FENCE</u>		
Remove existing fence, clear accumulated debris from snow plowing, and construct retaining wall.	Estimated at \$30,000	The structure of the retaining wall will depend on the exact location of the property line. We will not know what the options are, therefore, until the survey is complete. Absent the completed survey, this estimate is the upper end of a non-binding verbal estimate from a contractor on the City Vendor list.



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Remove/replace trees as necessary.	Estimated at \$5,890	This is our own estimate based on available market data.
Furnish and install 4' black vinyl coated chain link fence.	Estimated at \$7,007	This estimate is from Steelco Fence, based on its contract with the City.
Furnish and install eighteen steel and concrete bollards to protect new fence from vehicles and snowplows.	Estimated at \$18,867	This estimate is from Steelco Fence.
Contingency at 7%	\$4,960	
Total	\$75,824	

FENCE AT SOUTH BURYING GROUND Current Condition and Proposed Action

North Side.

The existing chain-link fence along this side of SBG has deteriorated and is falling inward along certain sections.





The damage is likely due, primarily, to snow and debris being plowed against it and the resulting freeze/thaws.

As a result of the debris that has accumulated at the base of the fence from snow-plowing, the grade at the base of the fence is now above the grade of the burying ground along most of the fence's length. As a result, in some spots where the fence is collapsing inward, it is pulling the soil dangerously close to gravestones. If the debris is not removed and/or those areas are not shored up, there will likely be irreparable damage to many of the gravestones at that end of the burying ground.





Before a new fence can be installed, the accumulated debris must be removed from the abutter's side of the fence in order to restore the original grade. If the original grade cannot be restored, a retaining wall will likely need to be built before installing the new fence.

There are a number of trees along this side which have grown into the fence. Some of these trees may need to be removed in order to build the retaining wall.



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HISTORIC BURYING GROUNDS PRESERVATION
NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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Office of the Mayor

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September 25, 2020

Newton Community Preservation Committee
c/o Chair Mark Armstrong
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Chairperson Armstrong and Members of the Newton CPC,

I am writing in support of Historic Newton's proposed fence and retaining wall project at South Burying Ground on Winchester Street. Over time, snowplowing, truck traffic and other stresses and have damaged the north side of the property. As stewards of not only the historic resources but also the boundary line, we are prioritizing this project.

The Administration not only fully supports the use of departmental time for this project, but the work is one of Historic Newton's departmental outcomes for fiscal year 2021. Parks, Recreation and Culture have received 311 calls about the failing fence on the North side of the property. Historic Newton has also been contacted by citizens critical of the aesthetics of the chain link fence along Winchester Street, and urging the City to do better as befitting this significant historic site.

Please support the reallocation of existing CPA burying grounds funds. The fence boundary is key to protecting the historic graves within which are important artifacts that have been restored by CPA money in previous years.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor
City of Newton

50 Tyler Terrace

Newton Centre, MA 02459

Mark Armstrong, Chair

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

Dear Chairperson Armstrong and Members of the Community
Preservation Committee,

As the first member of the 2002 Community Preservation Committee from the Historic Commission, and as a former Chair of the Community Preservation Committee in 2008, the year that Durant Kenrick was funded, and as a long time advocate for updating the fencing at the Winchester St. South Burial Grounds, I am writing to strongly support the request from Historic Newton at the October 13 CPC meeting to upgrade and replace the existing fence at South Burial Grounds.

I know how complicated a project this is, and I want to congratulate Lisa Dady and her staff and Board members for their perseverance and dedication.

This project will beautify that section of Winchester St and pay homage to those who were laid to rest there.

Best wishes,



Charlie McMillan

617-962-1511

Lara Kritzer

From: Lisa Dady
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 10:19 PM
To: Lara Kritzer
Subject: FW: Letter/ fence repair/ Winchester St Cemetery

Hi Lara,
See below.

Lisa S. Dady
Executive Director
Historic Newton
527 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02458
617-796-1451
www.HistoricNewton.org
[Learn more about our programs for students & adults!](#)

From: hope cline <hopecline2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 3:02 PM
To: hope cline <hopecline2@gmail.com>; Lisa Dady <ldady@newtonma.gov>
Subject: Letter/ fence repair/ Winchester St Cemetery

[DO NOT OPEN links/attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Historic Committee Members,

I am writing to call your attention to

A safety and preservation issue pertaining to the Winchester St Cemetery.

The fence that abuts the Cline property

has been braking down over the past several years. We have requested for this fence repair several times before.

Barbs from the fence are now sticking out in an extremely dangerous manner, with a 3 or 4 foot drop and large hazardous gaps in the links waiting for a foot or ankle to slip causing severe bodily harm. This is an accident waiting to happen. We do not want to see anyone impaled or with lacerations .

As the Cline property houses 3 schools, a music school, a cooking school and a daycare , it is of great concern . Please recommend the repair of this fence to insure the safety of

the children from the above mentioned schools as well as the neighborhood children who often walk by.

With the City of Newton's goal of increasing foot traffic on Winchester St. and Needham St.

it is imperative that this is remediated.

Thank you for your attention to this extremely dangerous issue, as the safety of our property as well as the whole community is extremely important to us.

Regards,
Hope E Cline
Cline Management
hopecline2@gmail.com