

ARTICLE 16F: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Community Preservation Historical Fund, estimated annual revenues, fund balance, or reserves, or otherwise fund, a sum of money \$550,000.00 for the preservation rehabilitation and restoration work of the identified 1033 head stone located at Burial Hill for conservancy work, which are identified in Burial Hill Gravestone/Monument Conditions Assessment Report, prepared by Fanin&Lehner Preservation Consultants, dated December 2011 in the Community Preservation Application submitted to the Community Preservation Committee on July 5, 2012 by Department of Public Works Department pursuant to G.L. c.44B or any other enabling authority, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow said sum and issue notes and bonds therefor; The 1000 head stones are located at Burial Hill off Town Square Lot xx, plat xx; in exchange for a Historic Preservation Restriction to be placed on the Cemetery, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept said restriction, or take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

CPC RECOMMENDATION: Approval (unanimous)

The Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously in favor of article 16F at their meeting held December 20, 2012

SUMMARY & INTENT:

The intent of Article 16F is to use CPA fund balance for the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of 1000 head stones, identified for conservation work per the Burial Hill Gravestone/Monument Conditions Assessment Report, prepared by Fanin & Lehner Preservation Consultants, Concord, MA, dated December 2011 and submitted to the CPC under the application from Jonathan Beder, Director of Public Works dated July 5 2012. In exchange for the CPA expenditure the town will place a Historic Preservation Restriction for the Cemetery at Burial Hill.

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

FALL 2011 / SPRING 2012 APPLICATION

Project Name: BORIAL Hill Conservation & PRESERVATION Project

CPA Funding requested: \$ 700,000.00 (REQUIRED)

Total project cost: \$ 750,000.00

Category (check all that apply): Open Space / Recreation Historic Housing

Lot and Plat: 22-19

Assessors Map #: 19

Number of acres in parcel: 5.25

Number of proposed housing units: N/A

Are there any existing deed restrictions on this property? Yes (please describe) No Don't know

Project Sponsor/ Organization: DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

Contact Name: JONATHAN BEDEZ - DPM DIRECTOR

Address: 159 CAMELOT DR - PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

Phone #: 508-830-4162 x 107 E-mail: JBEDEZ@TOWNHALL.PLYMOUTH.MA.US

Applicant Signature: J. Beder Date Submitted: 17/5/12

Application Requirements:

A complete application consists of this application page (the specific amount of CPA funding is *required*), along with the following:

1. A detailed description of the project explaining how your proposal benefits the Town of Plymouth and how it meets CPA goals and selection criteria outlined at the end of this application packet. Are there any special permit, variance or other approvals required? Are there any legal ramifications or impediments to this project?
2. A detailed project budget including any additional revenue sources. Will there be any annual costs to the town once the project is operational?
3. A project timeline.
4. Additional supporting information such as photographs, plot plans, and maps (if applicable).

Please send 11 copies (double-sided) of your application to: The Community Preservation Committee, Plymouth Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street, Plymouth, MA. 02360. Applications may also be dropped off at the Town Clerk's office or in the CPC mailbox at Plymouth Town Hall.

The deadline for submitting an application is twelve weeks before Spring or Fall Town Meetings.

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BURIAL HILL

CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION PROJECT

SUMMARY

Project Purpose and background:

- The purpose of the project is to preserve for decades and generations to come the historic connection to our past and enhance the visitor's perceptual experience of the site.
- Burial Hill is one of our countries earliest puritan burial grounds. Interments span over 330 years.
- The Massachusetts Historic Commission has concurred with the conclusions of Mr. Lee Hartman, Certified Local Government Coordinator, that Burial Hill is eligible for this designation.
- The swell of interest and enthusiasm generated by the Friends of Burial Hill is leading to significant value in volunteerism into the future.
- History is to be lost without the proper conservation and preservation that is needed. We cannot continue to let this happen.

The project scope has been developed to directly address the purpose:

- Preserve through Stone Conservancy the historic connection to our past; and,
- Enhance the visitor's perceptual experience.

The specific project scope involves the following:

- Over 1000 stones have been identified for conservation work per the Burial Hill Gravestone/Monument Conditions Assessment Report, prepared by Fanin & Lehner Preservation Consultants, Concord, MA, dated December 2011.
- The iron fencing at two family burial yards are in need of repair/restoration and/or replacement.
- The existing chain link fence at the back perimeter at the Russell Street entrance offers nothing in terms of enhancing the visitor's perceptual experience of the site and needs to be replaced with iron fencing much more appropriate for Burial Hill.
- The dilapidated chain link fence extending from the Spring Street entrance along the southerly boundary of the Cemetery needs to be removed and replaced with new fence for security and safety purposes.

Schedule & Budget:

- The project would be implemented and completed in the 2013 Calendar Year
- The total Project Budget is \$750,000.
- The funding request is \$700,000.
- The \$50,000 balance will be funded From Article 9 Item 13 2010 Annual Town Meeting

CPC Goals & Criteria:

- Burial Hill Conservation & Preservation project satisfies Criteria 1 and 2 of the Historic Preservation Goals & Criteria.
- Burial Hill Conservation & Preservation Project meets all 4 Historic Preservation Goals of the CPA, as well as, Goal #6 of the CPA Open Space goals and criteria.

Benefits of and Support for Preservation:

- With the aforementioned improvements Burial Hill will become a greater source of pride to the community and afford residents and the greater community, as well as ,those far and wide a valuable resource for artists, students, historians, archeologists, genealogists and those merely seeking a place to reflect and remember.
- The national Association for Gravestone Studies has recently included the Friends of Burial Hill mission statement and news within their upcoming issue of E-News.
- The Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Boston have committed to replace the cannons that once stood at the Cannon Memorial with replicas of the originals at no cost to the Town of Plymouth.

Further support has been demonstrated by letters recently received from:

- State Senate President Therese Murray
- State Representative Vinny deMacedo
- State Representative Thomas J. Calter
- Shary Page Berg, Landscape Preservation Consultant and author of the Nomination Application
- Ann Berry, Director Pilgrim Hall Museum
- James Blachowicz, Author "Slate To Marble"

Burial Hill Conservation and Preservation Project

Application to the Community Preservation Committee Fall of 2012

Project Summary

The Burial Hill Conservation and Preservation Project (herein “the Project”) involves the implementation of long overdue stone conservancy and preservation work at this historic Plymouth landmark. The purpose of the project is to preserve for decades and generations to come the historic connection to our past and enhance the visitor’s perceptual experience of the site. Through the services of professional stone conservators our connection to our past will be preserved. The design and installation of iron enclosures and iron boundary fencing, along the westerly boundary, that reflects a style of the era appropriate to Burial Hill are included to achieve the enhanced perceptual experience for our community and visitors. On the less visible boundary to the south, the existing, dilapidated chain link fence will be removed and replaced with new black vinyl coated chain link fence.

History

Burial Hill is one of our countries earliest puritan burial grounds. Interments span over 330 years. The first documented burial is that of Edward Gray 1681 and the final burial is that of Anna M. Klinghagen, 1957. The stone carvings and epitaphs show the changing views of our fore fathers thoughts on death and the afterlife. They are also reflective of societal patterns. Prior to being designated as a burying ground, the hill was the site of the first fort, meetinghouse and watch tower of the first pilgrim settlement. While none are now extant, the fort and watchtower have commemorative sculptures located where the original structures were thought to have stood. A 1910 replica of the original 1770 powder house stands on the site of the original. Housed within the powder house is the original commemorative stone plaque carved by William Coye, first resident carver of Plymouth with at least 36 attributions known at this time on Burial Hill. Among those interred are pilgrims John Howland and Mary Allerton. Later, Governor William Bradford’s remains were moved to rest with those of his son at Burial Hill. The Bradford Memorial marks the site. Resting on Burial Hill are other notables that include, Elder William Brewster, Revolutionary leaders, James Warren and Mercy Otis Warren. Among the dead buried here are veterans from The King Philip War, the Revolutionary War, The War of 1812, and The Civil War. There are 6 slate stones prior to 1700 located on the Hill. A walk through Burial is a walk through time and history.

An application to the Massachusetts Historic Commission for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places has been filed, is being reviewed and will be forwarded to the National Register for the final nomination process and determination. The Massachusetts Historic Commission has concurred with the conclusions of Mr. Lee Hartman, Certified Local Government Coordinator, that Burial Hill is eligible for this designation (see attached letter).

The Friends of Burial Hill, have had significant success gaining awareness and understanding of the importance of conservation and preservation of this unique and historically rich and critical open space within our Local Historic District. The Friends of Burial Hill now have over 80 members, has conducted three major cleanups, organized rotating watch/cleanup groups and conducted educational lectures and training workshops on gravestone and cemetery preservation. The Plymouth Antiquarian Society has also begun a series of educational walking tours at Burial Hill. The swell of interest and enthusiasm is leading to significant value in volunteerism into the future.

Project Need

Over the years many stones within Burial Hill have been lost. Some have sunken into the ground, some are illegible due to biological growths, and others have been broken beyond repair. History is to be lost without the proper conservation and preservation that is needed. We cannot continue to let this happen. Burial hill must be preserved and take its rightful place among some of Massachusetts' other historically significant cemeteries such as Mount Auburn, The Granary and Sleepy Hollow. Over 1000 stones have been identified for conservation work per the Burial Hill Gravestone/Monument Conditions Assessment Report, prepared by Fanin & Lehner Preservation Consultants, Concord, MA, dated December 2011. The survey identifies a wide range of problems. There are stones that display areas of deficit, stones that require reconstruction and others in need of patching or resetting to name several areas of need (see attached photos). The iron fencing at two family burial yards are in need of repair/restoration and/or replacement. The Jackson Yard fencing requires extensive restoration and /or replacement. The iron fencing of the Warren Yard is in need of a gate which has been missing for an unidentified length of time and the fencing itself will require restorative work. Typical yard configurations can be seen in the attached 1870 Atlas of Plymouth.

The existing chain link fence at the back perimeter at the Russell Street entrance offers nothing in terms of enhancing the visitor's perceptual experience of the site and needs to be replaced with fencing much more appropriate for Burial Hill. The existing condition lacks any sense of community pride in preservation of our historic treasures. Also, the dilapidated chain link fence extending from the Spring Street entrance along the southerly boundary of the Cemetery needs to be removed and replaced with new fence for security and safety purposes.

Project Scope

The project scope has been developed to directly address the purpose:

- Preserve through Stone Conservancy the historic connection to our past; and,
- Enhance the visitor's perceptual experience.

In this regard, the project proposes the following scope of work:

1. Retain professional services for the development of project specifications and appropriate bid documents for the procurement and proper control of the work of qualified Stone Conservators.
2. Procure through competitive public bid the lowest, qualified, responsive bidder for the stone conservancy work for just over 1,000 stones requiring various levels of repair and preservation, as defined by the project specifications.
3. Retain professional services for design and preparation of plans and specifications for burial yard and memorial site railing preservation, restoration/repair and replacement as determined needed. The same professionals will prepare the plans and specifications for new perimeter fencing along the South Russell Street facing side of Burial Hill, and black

vinyl chain link security fence along the southerly boundary of the cemetery. Figure 1 included with this application provides a graphical presentation of this project scope.

4. Procure through competitive public bid the lowest, qualified, responsive bidder for the furnishing and installation of the new iron decorative fencing, the security chain link fencing, and yard/memorial railing work per the plans and specification developed in scope item 3.
5. Bronze plaques will be permanently affixed to the iron fencing at two entrances to Burial hill acknowledging appreciation for the generous support received from Community Preservation.

Project Timeline

The following is a summary of the project milestone activities and schedule dates.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
CPC Application	July 2012
Project Presentation & Education	July – October 2012
Annual Fall Town Meeting	October 2012
MA Attorney General Approval	December 2012
Stone Conservancy Professional Services	November 2012 – December 2012
Stone Conservancy Work	April 2013 – November 2013
Visual Enhancements (yard rails, decorative iron fence, side security chain link fence)	April 2013 – June 2013
Professional Services	
Visual Enhancements (construction)	April 2013 – June 2013

Project Budget

The following is a summary of the project budget presented in the same categories shown in the project scope:

<u>Scope</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Stone Conservancy Specifications and Bid Documents	\$5,000.00
Stone Conservancy Work (1,000 Stones)-see attached estimate-A	\$541,000.00
Visual Enhancements (Professional Services)	\$15,000.00
Visual Enhancements (Iron Fence & Railings)	\$189,000.00
Project Total (Funds Required)	\$750,000.00
Existing Cemetery Funds Available (From Article 9 Item 13 2010 Annual Town Meeting)	<u>(\$50,000.00)</u>
Net Funds Requested	\$700,000.00

Alignment with Community Preservation Act Goals & Criteria

Burial Hill satisfies Criteria 1 and 2 of the Historic Preservation Goals & Criteria and meets all 4 Historic Preservation Goals of the CPA, as well as, Goal #6 of the CPA Open Space goals and criteria as follows:

Historical Significance Criteria: Burial Hill is a place of Historical significance within the Local Historic District. The Massachusetts Historical Commission issued a letter on May 3, 2011, concurring with Mr. Lee Hartman the Certified Local Government Coordinator, that “the Burial

Hill Cemetery and its associated structures are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places". The letter is included with this application as an attachment.

Goal #1 - Protect Historic Resources with Preservation Restrictions: Restrictions intended to protect the historic resources are already in place. The burial ground has been closed since 1957. Although restrictions are in place, preservation management has been missing. This project intends to establish such practices as ongoing preservation workshops, volunteer cleanups and rotating watches and inspections. But a more significant effort is required to make up for the years and decades that have passed without any preservation efforts and only annual cemetery maintenance.

Goal #2 - Optimize the use and enjoyment of the Town's historic resources for residents and visitors: The program of railing and fencing improvements planned will serve to significantly enhance the perceptual experience of the site. The historic significance of the site will be visually announced with the appropriate architectural iron fencing will make a strong statement of the Town's interest and pride in our history at this location.

Goal #3 – Maximize the economic benefits of Plymouth's heritage and historic character for the Town and region: The project will serve to enhance the visitation experience for residents and visitors from all over the globe. This landmark is already a significant part of the Plymouth Historic District. The Friends of Burial Hill will continue to promote awareness of Burial Hill through Local papers and publications, other historic societies and their following, and nationally with the assistance of the Association for Gravestone Studies. Creating more awareness of the site, and enhancing the perceptual experience for visitors, results in extended stays and extended paths of travel for visitors, which will benefit area restaurants, shops, museums, attractions and hotels.

Goal #4 – Recognize, preserve and enhance the historic heritage and character of the Town of Plymouth for current and future generations: The purpose of the project sums this up directly: **To preserve the historic connection to our past and enhance the perceptual experience.** Our historic heritage is displayed through the headstone markings and engravings. With the preservation program proposed by this project, we can all rest assured that this heritage will be preserved for years and generations to come. While the Plymouth Cemetery Division has done all it can through their annual maintenance program and budget to maintain the grounds, it is going to take a special effort by the Town through this project and a positive vote to appropriate the funds requested to preserve the remaining stones and enhance the perceptual experience in a way that reflects the Town Character properly. Architectural iron fencing that reflects a style of the era appropriate to Burial Hill will enhance the historic character significantly along the most exposed side of the cemetery generally facing South Russell Street, while restored and replaced iron railings surrounding two historic family burial yards will make visitors keenly aware of their significance in our local heritage

Goal #6 – Open Space – Increase the Town's ability to protect environmentally sensitive, historic and culturally significant properties: The project proposes to protect, through stone conservancy the carvings and engravings in historic stones dating as far back as 1681. Many stones have been destroyed over the years and carvings and engravings have vanished or become

illegible, permanently losing portions of our historic links to our past and heritage. The time has come to prevent any further loss.

Benefits, Public Interest & Ongoing Preservation

With the aforementioned improvements Burial Hill will become a greater source of pride to the community and afford residents and the greater community, as well as those far and wide a valuable resource for artists, students, historians, archeologists, genealogists and those merely seeking a place to reflect and remember. A cemetery that is well maintained and obviously cared for is more welcoming to locals and tourists alike and consequently more apt to be avoided by those looking to cause harm. As it stands now, with some recent improvements and civic involvement, it is a well visited site. And with the proposed preservation and conservation and an award of the requested funds, it will become even more of a tourist draw and destination point enhancing the visitation experience to Plymouth, contributing to the visitation numbers, and benefiting area restaurants, shops, museums, attractions and hotels.

Public support and awareness is growing rapidly. Friends of Burial Hill was founded 2-years ago. The mission of Friends is the protection, preservation, conservation and enhancement of the cemetery and its environs. Goals include the preservation of the physical grounds and the conservation of gravestones, memorials and commemorative sites. The public has seen numerous articles written in the Old Colony Memorial regarding the work of the Friends (see attached articles), walking history tours of the Hill, student activities, and a recent series on stones by Frank Mand. The Association for Gravestone Studies has recently included the Friends of Burial Hill mission statement and news within their upcoming issue of E-News. Recently, local historians and the Plymouth Antiquarian Society have conducted walking tours.

Project Volunteerism = Financial Benefit:

The Friends of Burial Hill have worked in close coordination with our DPW Cemetery Division. This nonprofit volunteer organization has grown to over 80 members in the last year and has received support and response beyond their expectations. The Friends have had three major clean-ups in conjunction with the Network of Open Space town-wide cleanups, and the hill has not looked better in recent memory. At the end of the day the volunteers had filled over 125 bags of leaf debris and litter. The founders of Friends have attended Conservation Workshops and been professionally trained to clean gravestones and/or reset small stones. They have held training session with twenty very enthusiastic Friends. All look forward to future volunteer work on Burial Hill to sustain what is achieved through the grant program over the next year. All work is being done under the supervision of the trainers. To attend to each stone is to recover a bit of history, art and culture. It gives one a keen awareness of the needs of our old cemeteries – history to be lost if not preserved. Rotating teams have been formed for cemetery clean-up/watch (with the support of the police dept.). The result is there are dedicated Friends walking through and checking Burial Hill on a regular basis.

The Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Boston have committed to replace the cannons that once stood at the Cannon Memorial with replicas of the originals at no cost to the Town of Plymouth. This represents another aspect of support and acknowledgement of the historic

significance and importance of this historic landmark to those beyond the boundaries of our immediate community, and will serve to compliment the program of improvements contemplated by this application.

Other Funding & Financial Support

All of this activity through volunteers leads to significant financial savings for the Town of Plymouth relative to the potential cost of recommended preservation activities, such as gravestone cleaning, small resetting and debris removal. Other Towns in the region have been known to spend up to \$20,000 per contract for simple gravestone cleanings. We can do the same on 100% volunteerism at near \$0.00 cost to the Town. While the volunteers certainly cannot implement the significant conservancy work and work proposed to enhance the perceptual experience of our visitors, they can certainly implement a sustainable program of preservation activities to maintain what is achieved in 2012 and 2013 through this project. With such a sustainable preservation program, the conservancy and enhancements achieved through this project are expected last well over another century, making this a milestone event for generations to look back on and be grateful.

Also, as noted in the budget section of this application, \$50,000 is available from Article 9 Item 13 2010 Annual Town Meeting, which appropriated funds from the Hotel Motel Tax Fund to be specifically used by the Plymouth DPW for Burial Hill headstone preservation. These funds will be applied directly to this project.

CONSERVATION COST ESTIMATES SUMMARYOLD BURIAL HILL

12/19/2011

Section A	\$43,900
Section B	\$170,000
Section C-East	\$37,850
Section C-West	\$17,080
Section D	\$16,160
Section E	\$ 2,565
Section F	\$44,350
Section G	\$16,160
Section H	\$ 3,675
Section I	\$ 1,870
Section J	\$ 6,600
Section K	\$49,050
Section L	\$32,700
Section M	\$23,000
Section N	\$50,550
Section O	\$15,700
Section P	\$10,700

TOTAL CONSERVATION ESTIMATE **\$541,910**

TOTAL STONES REQUIRING CONSERVATION IN OLD BURIAL HILL ----- 1033

Resetting & Stone Repairs Needed



Stone Preservation Results



Stone Condition Prior to Preservation



Stone Condition After Preservation Work