

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS
Application Deadline: November 1, ~~2024~~ 2025

APPLICATION FORM

Title of proposal

Name and address of individual or organization submitting application

DEERFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Contact Person: BEN BENSON, CHAIR

Address: S CHRISTIAN DRIVE, DEERFIELD

Telephone: (413) 768-9851

Email: dhc@town.deerfield.ma.us
(also) boopx2@gmail.com

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

CPA Funds requested \$ 8,850 * A detailed, documented proposal for costs including a budget and professional estimates should be included in order for application to be deemed complete.

You have submitted the Capital Improvements Committee form required when you seek more than \$10,000.

Summary of Proposal

Repair and treatment of 30 gravestones in Will River Cemetery.

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
DEERFIELD COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
CPA Funding Application
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GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE- ALL CATEGORIES

NOTE: Respond to **ALL** questions, and expand as necessary with attached pages. **Do not delete** any questions in this Questionnaire or the Category Questionnaire. Non-applicable questions should be answered with "N/A". **Incomplete applications may result in ineligibility for consideration for the current cycle.**

1. How would your proposal realize visions and goals set out in our Master Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan?

Care and restoration of Town properties is clearly an essential goal. The graves represent history and heritage.

2. How would your proposal preserve the character of Deerfield?

Maintaining the condition of our cemeteries and their character is a gift to posterity.

3. Explain what other sources of funding you are pursuing, if any, to match the CPA Funds you are requesting?

This has been the Historical Commission's primary funding source for all such work.

4. If your proposal requires urgent action, explain why.

Not urgent, but important

5. If your proposal serves a currently under-served population, explain how.

Not applicable

6. If your proposal preserves a threatened resource, explain how.

Not applicable

7. Does your proposal fit within the current zoning, environmental, building, and other regulations?

No zoning, environmental or other regulations will be affected

8. If your proposal would require ongoing support for upkeep, explain the projected means to provide maintenance once CPA funds have been spent.

Care and maintenance of cemeteries is currently the responsibility of the DPW.

10. Did the property ever play a documented role in the history of the town?

None known

11. Is the owner willing to have a permanent restriction attached to the property? Please provide a statement of such.

Not applicable

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Category: **HISTORIC PRESERVATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. Does your proposal address property that is already listed on the State Historic Register? NO
2. Has the property been determined by the Deerfield Historic Committee to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the Town of Deerfield? If so, please provide verification from DHC.
The DHC has made no such specific determination.
As a public cemetery, and active, it is important now and
into the future
3. Please explain the situation if the property is in danger of being demolished.
Not applicable
4. Are there potential archaeological artifacts at the site?
No search is anticipated. The graves speak for themselves
5. Has the property been noted in published histories of the town or county?
Only briefly, if at all
6. Could the property be converted for a new use while retaining its historic quality?
Not applicable
7. Is the owner also interested in preserving the historic integrity of the property?
The Town is the owner. No change is anticipated
8. What are the important historic aspects of the property?
The personal histories of those buried there
9. Was a known architect of the era involved in the design of the property?
Not known

9. If your proposal involves currently-owned Town assets, explain which ones.

The Town owns the cemetery.

10. What community support does your proposal have?

See attached

11. If any Town boards or committees support your proposal, provide written endorsements.

See attached

12. How would the proposal meet all requirements for disability accessibility?

There will be no change to current accessibility conditions

13. If your proposal will reclaim abandoned or previously developed resources, please explain.

Not applicable

14. Is there is a volunteer component to your proposal, which could offset the need for CPA funds, what volunteer activities have been completed or pledged and by whom?

Gravestone Services of New England specialize in this work. Volunteer assistance is with appropriate.

15. How will this proposal conserve energy or other resources?

Not applicable

16. What considerations does your proposal include for vehicle and bicycle parking?

There will be no change to the property. Access by any vehicle is available, with streetside parking.

17. What considerations does your proposal include for public transportation?

Not applicable

Additional Information:

While there are at least eleven known cemeteries¹ in the Town of Deerfield, there is no active cemetery committee tasked with their maintenance. As a result, the DPW maintains these properties. However, the Historical Commission has come before the CPC whenever historic restoration and/or repair of gravestones has been called for. Since 2013 The CPC has supported this work by granting over \$120,000 for six different such projects, including at the Sugarloaf Street, Albany Road and Laurel Hill cemeteries. This money was carefully expended and only about \$85,000 was ultimately expended on these several projects, the rest being returned to the CPC.

Mill River Cemetery contains 334 memorial stones, the majority dating from the 19th and early 20th. century, and has clearly served the immediate community over time. . It has burials dating from at least 1837 and continues to be in active use.

In the cemetery itself, 30 gravestones need repair and resetting. Gravestone Service of New England LLC has been our preferred contractor for such work and should complete it within on fiscal year. While their prices have increased (see attached e-mail) to \$295.00 per gravestone, the quotation for this work is reasonable and the firm is reliable. We anticipate that this project will be completed within one fiscal year.

Given that similar projects have been approved in the past, no endorsements have been sought from other Town boards or committees. A post on the Facebook page of “Deerfield Now” asking for interest or support for the project received no responses.

1. <<https://www.deerfieldma.us/164/Cemetery-List>> This list does not contain the “Original Pine Nook” of “River Road” cemetery, which is on town-owned land and currently under study. There are also two Church-maintained and two privately owned cemeteries in the Town.

Gravestone Services of New England, LLC
1411 North St
Windsor, MA 01270-9248
9788219158
Info@GravestoneServices.com
<https://www.GravestoneServices.com>



Estimate

ADDRESS

Deerfield Historical Commission

ESTIMATE # 1449

DATE 02/25/2025

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
Conservation&Repair:Conservation&Repair repair and resetting of 30 gravestones at Mill River Cemetery	30	295.00	8,850.00
Anti Lichen Treatment Treatment with Citrashield Biological Solution	30	0.00	0.00
Documentation Before and After photos	30	0.00	0.00

TOTAL

\$8,850.00

Accepted By

Accepted Date
