

MEETING NOTICE
TOWN OF SANDWICH, MA
Sandwich Historical Commission

Location: MacKnight Room (Town Archives),
Sandwich Public Library, 142 Main St,
Sandwich, MA

Date: November 07, 2012

Time: 6:00 PM

AGENDA

- 1. Review & Approval of Minutes (Vote)**
- 2. Correspondence / Statements / Announcements / Follow Up**
- 3. Public Forum**
- 4. Staff Meeting**

Bill Daley – Historic Marker application for 97 Tupper Road, asset #274, to be known as the Eleazer Parkes House, built in 1849. (Vote) (15 minutes)

Historic Marker application for 7 Jarves St, asset #261, to be known as the Captain William Stutson House, built in 1826. (Vote) (15 minutes)

Bill Daley – Update on the Sandwich 375th/Canal 100th Anniversary Celebration planning. (30 minutes)

5. Old Business.

Jennifer Madden: Update on Old Town Burying Ground restoration. (15 minutes)

6. New Business.

7. Public Forum.

Signed: *Terry Blake*

Name: Terry Blake, Chair

Date: November 2, 2012

TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF SANDWICH

NOV 02 2012

4 H M p M
RECEIVED & RECORDED



Preserving the substance and significance of gravestones

IRVING SLAVID *Conservator*
MARTIN JOHNSON *Conservator*
PROF. NORMAN R. WEISS *Consultant*

Jennifer Madden
Director of Collections and Exhibitions
Heritage Museum and Gardens
67 Grove Street
Sandwich MA, 02563
October 21, 2012

Dear Jennifer,

I have reviewed the list of the 76 remaining "Priority 1" markers and have separated them into two groups, markers which are at immediate risk and those which do not need timely conservation treatments.

Basically, all fallen and fractured markers are in the first group. Fallen markers are trip hazards and are subject to additional damage by grounds maintenance. Some may have to be simply reset in the ground, or into existing bases, but the majority of them will require new below grade setting bases. Fragments of fractured markers are relatively fragile and are susceptible to additional breakage and complete loss if not structurally attached.

In the second group are those which are delaminating, which is a very slow deteriorating process. The few tilted markers are included in this group.

The accompanying list shows 51 markers in the first group and 25 markers in the second group which are delaminated or tilted. Professional conservation treatments can be done in 2 or 3 phases depending on your budget. There is also a cost (and time) benefit of treating similar conditions to a number of markers at the same time. For the 51 markers a budget of \$40,000 would be reasonable. If this work were to be spread over 2 years, \$22,000 per year should cover the costs. For the remaining 25 markers a reasonable estimate for professional restoration is \$15,000.

In reviewing the priority 3 descriptions, it appears that many of the markers have the same conditions and treatments as the markers in priority 1, i.e. delaminations, fractures etc. This is all work for a professional conservator. Volunteer help would be limited to cleaning markers if necessary. Insurance could also be an issue.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Irving Slavid, President

P.O. BOX 541, NORFOLK, CT 06058 860 309 9491 MCCLLC@gmail.com

**TOWN OF SANDWICH
APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Applicant: Sandwich Historical Commission and the Town Of Sandwich,
Cemetery Commission

Contacts:

Jennifer Madden
34 Jarves St. Sandwich, MA 02563-2039
508-423-4745
jenniferymadden@gmail.com

Paul Tilton
DPW Director/Town Engineer
508-833-8002
ptilton@townofsandwich.net

Project Name RESTORATION OF GRAVESTONES IN SANDWICH OLD TOWN
BURYING GROUND

Project Location: Grove Street, Assessor's Map 73, Parcel 192

CPA Category: Historic Preservation

CPA Funding Requested: Total Cost of Proposed Project: \$? of CPA funds and \$? of
matching funds already granted by the Sandwich Cemetery Commissioners from the
interest on the trust fund for Old Town Burying Ground.

(*) If the proposal involves
town-owned land, either the applicant or the co-applicant must be the town agency in
control of the land.

OVERVIEW: Old Town Burying Ground is one of the oldest burying grounds in the
Commonwealth. It was established by a vote of the Town Meeting in 1663 and contains
approximately one quarter of all the remaining 17th century gravestones on Cape Cod.
Overlooking Lower Shawme Pond, its unique location is a place of serene beauty,
unmatched by any other ancient burial place in the Commonwealth. Appreciated by both
residents and visitors, the gravestones in the Old Town Burying Ground are primarily
from the 17th and 18th centuries and commemorate the lives of generations of Sandwich
citizens.

Historic burying grounds are a vital element of the Commonwealth's cultural heritage.
They are outdoor museums filled with collections of gravestones, some of which have
been in place for more than 300 years. Like museums, which devote considerable
resources to the documentation and preservation of the collections in their care, the
gravestones in our earliest burial grounds deserve the same attention.

These museums are free to any who wish to enter, and walking through a historic burial ground and reading the gravestones can transport the viewer back in time. By admiring the carvings on the gravestones, the viewer is appreciating some of the earliest surviving art of the Commonwealth. The Old Town Burying Ground contains work by the earliest and best gravestone carvers in the area, and some of the types of carvings are found in only one or two other cemeteries. Likewise, the writing on the gravestones is some of the earliest written history of our community. Through reading the epitaphs on the gravestones, the visitor can learn about the lives that made up our community and all of its tragedy, scandal, and even humor. Gravestones and burial grounds help us understand and appreciate the lives of our ancestors.

It is easy to assume that since our earliest burial grounds have survived this long, that they will continue to exist with minimal care for generations to come. However, we know from historic documentation that the burial ground we see today is much different from the one that existed previously, with the loss of gravestones due to exposure to the weather, overgrown vegetation, misguided attempts at preservation and vandalism. It is only through careful preservation that these resources will be preserved for the future.

In recent years America's oldest burying grounds have received increasing study, and advances in the technology of documentation, maintenance and preservation has made it possible to undertake with confidence the historic preservation of ancient cemeteries. In order to ensure the ongoing protection and preservation of Old Town Burying Ground which is one of Sandwich's most important historic resources, provide guidance to the maintenance staff of the Town, comprehensive data for decision-making, public access, and a host of other issues, the Sandwich Historical Commission is proposing a program of gravestone restoration.

The plan for the restoration of the gravestones is based on a previous CPA funded project. In 2009 The CPC funded a *Preservation Plan of the Old Town Burying Ground, Sandwich, Massachusetts* for \$60,000. This study was conducted by Ivan Myjer, a respected stonemason and gravestone conservation professional. The study included a comprehensive map of the burial ground, inventory and photograph of each gravestone, as well as a treatment proposal for gravestones needing conservation attention. The stones needing treatment are categorized by need into five groupings: Reset Only Priority 1 and 2, and Treatment Priority 1, 2 and 3.

After the Preservation Plan was in place, the next step was to begin treatment. In January 2012 the Sandwich Historical Commission submitted a proposal to treat 39 gravestones in the burying ground. These included all of the Reset Only Priority 1 and 2 gravestones (27 total). In addition, twelve Treatment Priority 1 gravestones that were lying on the ground were also treated. The CPC approved \$10,000 in CPA funds and the Sandwich Cemetery Commissioners approved \$10,000 from the Old Town Burial Ground trust fund. This recommendation was approved at Town Meeting in May, 2012 and work began in September and is expected to be complete in early November.

The Sandwich Historical Commission feels strongly that the gravestone treatment should be continued, particularly because some of the oldest and most historically significant stones have not yet been treated. The SHC proposes treating the remaining 76 stones in the Treatment Priority 1 category with this application.

Treatments of the 76 gravestones for this application will include, but may not be limited to: resetting, removal of prior inappropriate treatments, gluing of pieces separated along cleavage planes, gluing of pieces broken across cleavage planes or bedding planes, grouting of fissures, cracks and seams, application of mortar caps, composite mortar repairs and the lying down of flaking areas.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: The Sandwich Old Town Burying Ground enjoys broad community support from institutions and individuals. The Sandwich Glass Museum sponsors regular tours of the Old Town Burying Ground, and over the years Heritage Museums & Gardens has had exhibits concerned with the art and design of ancient gravestones, beginning in 1998 with the outstanding exhibit, *Art of the Departed: The Gravestones of Cape Cod*, arranged by Jennifer Madden, Chief Curator and Director of Collections and Exhibitions at Heritage.

Previous applications to the Community Preservation Act requesting funding for The Plan of Documentation and Restoration for the Old Town Burying Ground are as noted above.

Additionally, the Sandwich Cemetery Commissioners approved funding for the first round of gravestone treatment as noted above. The SHC is requesting an increase of funding to enable the restoration of this ancient burial site to move forward more quickly as deterioration continues. The residents of Sandwich are anxious to see the work continue to restore our oldest burying ground.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Sandwich Historical Commission has determined that the Old Town Burying Ground is significant in the history of Sandwich and is a contributing feature in the Town Hall Square National Register Historic District. The gravestones in the burial ground mark the final resting places of many of the town's most prominent citizens, and the ground also contains remarkable examples of the work of local and regional gravestone carvers. The preservation of the unique early American gravestones contribute to the historic character of Sandwich, "not only for the cultural benefit of the residents of Sandwich, but also to encourage and increase heritage tourism that is so crucial to our economy." (where did this quote come from?)

TIMELINE: The Sandwich Historical Commission strongly encourages the Sandwich Community Preservation Committee to recommend the *Restoration of the Gravestones at Old Town Burying Ground* to the Town Meeting for approval in May 2013 or at any earlier Town Meeting when Community Preservation applications are presented.

Following the approval of Town Meeting we expect to submit RFPs to professional stone masons who are well regarded and recommended and who have the skills required to properly restore as many of our gravestones as possible for the sum not to exceed \$? for the actual gravestone restoration. We would expect completion of the work within one year, depending on the weather.

The Town is fortunate to have a dedicated staff under the able direction of Sandwich Town employee, Dick Saline, to undertake the maintenance of the Old Town Burying Ground. The advances in the understanding of the requirements of maintenance and the necessity for proper maintenance have been covered in the *Preservation Master Plan* for Old Town Burying Ground as written by Ivan Myjer. Additionally, Mr. Saline was able to spend considerable time with Mr. Myjer on site during the Documentation project. Old Town Burying Ground is town owned.

Jennifer Madden
Sandwich Historical Commission