



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

Town of Sudbury

Application for CPA Funding

Please email PDF application to:
PoteatR@sudbury.ma.us

Applications may also be dropped off or mailed to:
Community Preservation Coordinator
278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

Project Title Revolutionary War Cemetery Restoration **Date Submitted** 9/14/2026

Applicant/Contact Person (please print) Kimberly Burns (on behalf of the Sudbury Historical Commission)

Signature Kimberly Burns  Digitally signed by Kimberly Burns
Date: 2026.09.11 22:35:43 -04'00'

Staff person/Responsible party Sudbury Historical Commission

Email kburns811@gmail.com **Telephone** (908) 461-8291

Estimated Completion Date 1/1/2030

Total Cost of Project \$48,000 **CPA Funds Requested** \$48,000

CPA Eligibility (refer to the chart on page 4)

Please select the category and purpose of your project:

CPA Category:

- ☐ Community Housing
- ☒ Historic Preservation
- ☐ Open Space & Recreation

CPA Purpose:

- ☐ Acquisition
- ☐ Creation
- ☒ Preservation
- ☐ Support
- ☒ Rehabilitation & Restoration

For more information of the factors and considerations used by the Community Preservation Committee used to prioritize projects, please refer to the General Considerations summary (on pages 5-6).

<https://sudbury.ma.us/cpc/>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Provide answers to the questions listed below. A complete application must provide all relevant requested information. Include supporting materials and exhibits as needed.

1. Goals: What are the specific objectives of the proposed project? Who will benefit and how?

The Sudbury Historical Commission seeks CPA funds to preserve and restore the town's Revolutionary War Cemetery in Sudbury Center, one of the town's most significant historic resources. Specifically, this project will: (a) repair critically damaged and fallen historic gravestones and stabilize cracked markers before they break; (b) mitigate a hazardous tree that threatens centuries-old stones; (c) restore a missing section of the cemetery's historic boundary stone wall; and (d) restore the deteriorated historic iron fence and gate at the Plympton family plot.

The beneficiaries are the whole community: schoolchildren who learn town history on site, genealogists and descendants researching their roots, and residents and visitors drawn to carved stones that are works of art documenting changing styles of memorial craftsmanship.

2. Community Need: Why is this project needed? Does it address needs identified in existing Town or regional plan, by committees/board, or needs raised in community discussions? Will the project serve multiple needs or populations?

The Sudbury Revolutionary War Cemetery is "home" to several important key figures in our town's history, and is used to teach Sudbury children about local history and sociology. Cemeteries serve as an open-air archive of our town and its growth. There is also a need to protect artistic stone carvings that showcase changing art styles as they relate to remembrance of loved ones. Lastly, descendants partaking in genealogy research visit this site to feel connected to their family roots.

3. Community Support: Which Town Boards/Committees/Departments or community organizations have you consulted/collaborated.

Sudbury residents recently became re-engaged with the Revolutionary War Cemetery with the introduction of the new kiosk at the site. Our community uses this site to honor and remember patriots who served in the Revolutionary War, among many other notable Sudbury figures.

4. Budget: What is the total budget for the project and how will CPA funds be spent? Provide written estimates to substantiate proposed costs. Include a multi-year budget, if appropriate. (NOTE: CPA funds may NOT be used for general maintenance purposes.)

Total project budget: \$48,000. CPA funds requested: \$48,000.

* Gravestone cleaning and repair — \$37,000 (based on actual bid pricing received through the June 2026 RFP)

* Tree work — \$5,000 (preliminary estimate)

* Iron fence restoration, Plympton plot — \$5,000 (preliminary estimate)

* Stone wall repair — \$1,000 (preliminary estimate)

Gravestone repair (\$37,000, 77% of the request) is substantiated by actual bid pricing received through the June 2026 RFP, which put the average cost to repair a critically damaged stone at approximately \$1,000. We have identified 46 stones needing work. The \$37,000 breaks down as approximately \$12,000 to repair the 12 "critical" condition stones — fallen or broken — as the highest priority, and approximately \$25,000 for preventative crack repair and cleaning of biological growth across the remaining 34 stones. Costs per stone vary with the scope of each fix.

The tree, fence, and stone wall figures (\$11,000 combined) are preliminary planning estimates based on publicly available pricing for comparable work; the Commission has not solicited formal quotes, as this work cannot be procured before funds are appropriated. All three will be competitively procured in compliance with state procurement law, and we will return any unexpended balance. All figures reflect 2026 pricing.

5. Funding: What other funding sources are committed or under consideration? Include any commitment letters or describe other efforts to secure funding for this project.

CPA is the funding source sought for this work. In addition, \$14,100 remains from the earlier (2004) CPA cemetery grant. Those funds are already planned to be expended on critically damaged stones at this same cemetery. The June 2026 RFP returned pricing above our initial expectations, requiring us to reduce scope to stay within that 2004 appropriation. The approximately \$1,000-per-stone average used in Section 4 is drawn from that actual RFP bid pricing rather than from our earlier assumptions, so this request is sized to real market costs. That prior appropriation is being fully used and is separate from, and prior to, this \$48,000 request.

6. **Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation? Include a timeline for critical elements: procurement, groundbreaking, expenditures, and estimated project completion.

By focusing our efforts on one cemetery, we aim to use these funds much more quickly than the last round of cemetery funding. We will aim to complete the projects outlined within two years, but request flexibility to extend to three years. Given the work is all outside and requires the ground to be unfrozen, we are limited in when the work can be completed. We will use the next two years to focus on the Revolutionary War Cemetery, then shift focus to another of Sudbury's historic cemeteries in a subsequent application.

7. **Urgency:** Is there urgency to the completion of this project? What are the ramifications if the project is delayed and/or not completed?

If repairs or prevention measures are not taken soon, we risk irreversible weathering and further breakage to the gravestones and to the cemetery at large. The hazardous tree presents the most time-sensitive risk: if its limbs or the tree itself fall, damage to centuries-old markers would be immediate and irreversible.

8. **Implementation:** Who will be responsible for implementing the project? Who will manage the project? Does the proposed project manager have relevant experience? Who else will be involved in project implementation and what arrangements have been made with them?

The Sudbury Historical Commission will be responsible for implementing and managing this project if approved by the CPC and Town Meeting. Work will be procured in compliance with state procurement law.

9. **Maintenance:** If maintenance is required, who will be responsible and how will it be funded?

Lawn care and other routine maintenance of the cemetery is coordinated through the Sudbury DPW.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Provide the following additional information, if applicable.

10. **Further Documentation:** Provide feasibility reports, renderings, map location, and other relevant studies and materials. Photos, detailed design renderings, relevant or comparable projects and supporting documents such as historic structural and existing conditions reports, also will be helpful in defining the parameters of your project.

11. **Other Information:** Include any additional information that might benefit the Community Preservation Committee in the evaluation of this project.

12. **Applicants with multiple requests:** Please prioritize your proposals.

Grant recipients are required to acknowledge the Community Preservation Act in press releases, publicity materials, news, and written or oral announcements about work supported with CPA funds. Additionally, the CPC requires signage in the form of a sign or plaque affixed on or adjacent to CPA-funded work as approved by the CPC when possible. The CPC will fund and supply the signage in consultation with the Applicant.

Conflict of Interest: The CPC is governed by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268A Conflict of Interest Law, which regulates the standards of conduct of all state, county and municipal employees and volunteers, whether paid or unpaid, full or part-time, intermittent or temporary.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT · HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Restoring Sudbury's Revolutionary War Cemetery

A conservation plan for the burying ground at Sudbury Center, the town's oldest, and the resting place of its founders.

REQUEST

\$48,000

CATEGORY

Historic Preservation

APPLICANT

Sudbury Historical Commission

STATE REGISTER

MACRIS SUD.805

What and where it is

- Sudbury's oldest burying ground, in **Sudbury Center**, listed on the state register as **MACRIS SUD.805**.
- **473 markers catalogued** — every identified headstone, plus damaged footstones documented as they were found to need work.
- Burials span from **1727** through the late 1800s, including town founders and Revolutionary War patriots.
- Actively used by **schoolchildren** learning local history and by **genealogists and descendants** researching family roots.
- A **new interpretive kiosk** has renewed public attention on the site.

The carved stones are themselves the artifact. Slate and marble markers here document changing memorial craftsmanship across a century and a half — winged skulls, soul effigies, willow-and-urn.

How we know what needs work

- **Two volunteers, 20 days in the cemetery** between March and August 2026 — photographing damage and recording the work each marker needs, stone by stone.
- Each marker examined is rated on the **AGS / MHC condition framework**: Good, Fair, Poor, Critical.
- Damage recorded by type — fracture, delamination, biological growth, displacement, failed prior repair.
- Every assessed marker is **photographed**.
- **This is not a professional conservator's assessment** — deliberately. It is a volunteer condition survey, so funds go to visible repairs rather than a costly town-wide study.
- Every marker will be **treated by a qualified conservator**, selected on credentials, who assesses and treats each stone individually.
- Records are public at sudburygravestonearchive.org — anyone can audit this request.

142

MARKERS ASSESSED

Condition-rated in the field to date.

165

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS

Across 140 individual markers.

Why 47 markers, not 473?

473

DOCUMENTED

Every marker located and catalogued in the cemetery.

> 142

CONDITION-ASSESSED

Examined closely in the field, worst-affected first.

> 62

POOR OR CRITICAL

Confirmed as damaged on close inspection.

> 47

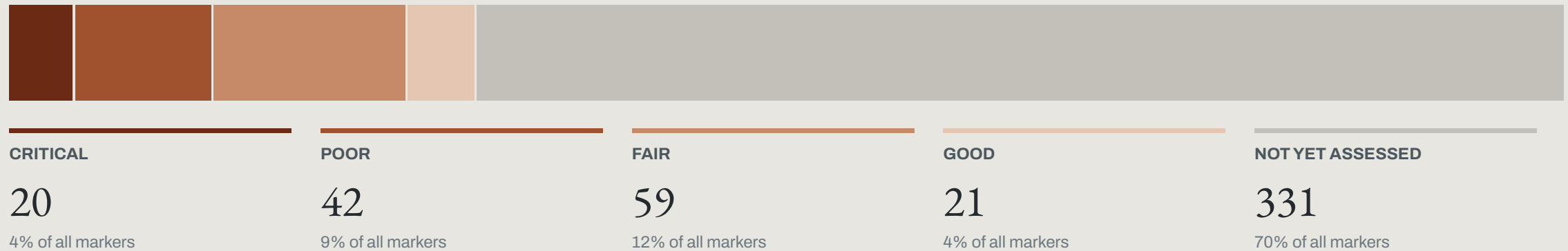
SCOPED FOR WORK

With a written, marker-specific scope and cost estimate.

We walked the entire cemetery and examined the worst-affected markers first. These 47 are not a sample of some larger unknown — they are **the markers we found that need intervention now**. Assessment of the remainder continues.

Separately funded — the June 2026 RFP. Twelve markers are already out to bid against the balance of the 2004 appropriation, and none is among the 47 above. Eleven are here: Sarah Rice 1740 · Priscilla Winshipp 1747 · Dorcas Willis 1793 · Curtis Moore 1813 · Sarah Bowker 1813 · Maynard Wheeler footstone 1825 · Leonard & Betsy Dutton 1828 · Isaac Moore 1829 · Oliver Parmenter 1838 · Ruth Carr 1856 · Phineas Puffer 1876 — the twelfth is at Mount Wadsworth.

Condition of all 473 markers



The 142 markers examined were chosen worst-first. The high share of Poor and Critical ratings is the damage we went looking for — and found. It is not a random sample of the cemetery.

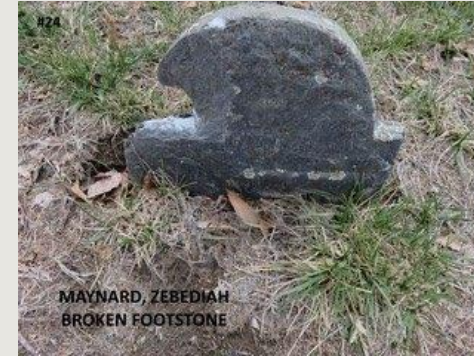
Six of the 47



Benjamin Wight
d. 1739 · Slate · Poor



Patience Muzzy
d. 1748 · Slate · Critical



Zebediah Maynard
d. 1822 · Slate · Critical



Hepzibeth & William Hayden
d. 1822 · Slate · Critical



Abigail Willis
d. 1833 · Marble · Critical



Abijah Dudley
d. 1840 · Slate · Critical

How the \$37,000 is built

PRIORITY	TASKS	AVERAGE PER MARKER	TYPICAL WORK
Critical	11	\$1,000	Fallen & fractured markers; active delamination
Poor	40	\$600	Structural cracks; failed cement repairs; resetting
Fair	17	\$150	Crack monitoring; cleaning; re-levelling
Total	50	\$37,000	

Averages are drawn from the marker-by-marker scopes recorded to date, where individual work ranges from \$75 for surface cleaning to \$1,500 for recovering, re-joining and resetting a fractured stone. Excludes the twelve markers already funded by the June 2026 RFP. The tree, iron fence and boundary wall are costed separately.

The tree, the fence, and the wall

\$11,000 of the \$48,000 — three site conditions that are damaging, or about to damage, the same markers this request pays to conserve.



Mature tree over the oldest section of the burying ground

Hazardous tree

A mature tree stands directly over a dense cluster of 18th-century slate markers. A failure here would not damage one marker — it would take out a cluster of them at once.

Removal by a licensed arborist, with the surrounding markers protected during the work.

\$5,000 PRELIMINARY · QUOTE TO BE OBTAINED



Plympton plot — enclosure off its posts and leaning on the stones

Historic iron fence & gate

The wrought-iron enclosure at the Plympton family plot has come off its posts. Whole panels now lean against the markers they were built to protect, and the joints have corroded through.

Repair and re-pin the ironwork, reset the posts, and re-hang the gate on its original line.

\$5,000 PRELIMINARY · QUOTE TO BE OBTAINED



Road edge — displaced wall stone scattered down the bank

Boundary stone wall

A run of the historic dry-laid boundary wall along the road edge is gone, its stones scattered down the bank. It is both the cemetery's historic boundary and its edge against the road.

Reset the fallen stone and rebuild the missing section, dry-laid, on its original line.

\$1,000 PRELIMINARY · QUOTE TO BE OBTAINED

Total request: \$48,000

LINE ITEM	AMOUNT	BASIS
Gravestone conservation — 47 markers	\$37,000	DOCUMENTED — 50 marker-specific scopes; range \$12,550–\$38,998
Hazardous tree mitigation	\$5,000	PRELIMINARY — tree threatens centuries-old stones; quote to be obtained
Historic iron fence & gate — Plympton plot	\$5,000	PRELIMINARY — deteriorated ironwork; quote to be obtained
Boundary stone wall — missing section	\$1,000	PRELIMINARY — restore missing run of historic wall; quote to be obtained
Total CPA funds requested	\$48,000	

The Commission will secure written quotes for the tree, fence and wall work before any funds are expended, and will return to the Committee if documented costs differ materially from these figures.

The 2004 grant is separate — and committed

- **\$14,100 remains** from the town's earlier **2004 CPA cemetery appropriation**.
- That balance is **fully committed** and being expended now.
- It was competitively bid through the **June 2026 Request for Proposals for Revolutionary War Cemetery stone repair**.
- It funds work on **11 markers here** — nine of them Critical — plus one further marker at Mount Wadsworth. A separate set from the 47 in this request.
- **No overlap.** This \$48,000 request begins where that money runs out.

12

MARKERS OUT TO BID

Eleven here, one at Mount Wadsworth, under the June 2026 RFP.

47

MARKERS IN THIS REQUEST

Scoped, documented, and currently unfunded.

Cleaning is conservation, not maintenance

- **25 of the 50 scoped tasks** — half — already include cleaning or biological growth removal.
- Lichen and moss **hold moisture against the stone** and etch the surface. Removing them halts active loss, and often makes an inscription legible again.
- This request funds cleaning **where a marker is already being treated**.
- It does **not** fund cemetery-wide cleaning of sound markers. As the survey continues, that may warrant a future request. Potential for town event to train and deploy volunteers for cleaning tasks to save money and encourage involvement.

CPA funds may not be used for general maintenance. Removing biological growth that is actively destroying a 280-year-old slate face is **preservation of a historic resource** — the same judgment the state applies to masonry on a historic building.

Two years of work, three years of flexibility

- **Procurement** — competitive RFP for conservation services, following town and state procurement law, within the first months of the award.
- **Season one** — urgent and high-priority markers; hazardous tree removal.
- **Season two** — remaining scoped markers; fence, gate and stone wall work.
- **Completion targeted within two years**, with a request for flexibility to **extend to three**.
- Plan to request funding after two or three years to repeat this process with the next Sudbury cemetery.

All of this work is outdoors and requires unfrozen ground. The practical working season is roughly **April through November**, which is the single largest constraint on the schedule.

What another winter costs

- **Freeze-thaw.** NASA recorded **49 freeze-thaw cycles over Sudbury last winter.** Each cycle drives water into an open crack, freezes, and widens it. A stone that can be consolidated today becomes one that must be re-joined tomorrow — at several times the cost.
- **Marble is especially vulnerable.** Seven marble markers already carry open cracks that every freeze-thaw cycle drives further apart.
- **Lost fragments.** Broken pieces sink into the soil or are struck by mowers. Once a fragment is gone, **the inscription it carried is gone permanently.**
- **Delamination.** Slate sheds its carved face in layers. The loss is of the carving itself — the artifact, not its support.
- **A falling tree** would not damage one marker. It would destroy a cluster of them at once.

Twenty markers are already rated Critical. Several date to the **1740s**. They have survived 280 winters. They will not survive many more without intervention.

Who does the work, and what happens after

IMPLEMENTATION

- The **Sudbury Historical Commission** is responsible for the project.
- Conservation performed by **qualified conservators** selected under town and state procurement law.
- The Commission has already run a **competitive RFP for this cemetery in June 2026**.
- Survey, scoping and records management are handled in-house by Commission volunteers.

MAINTENANCE

- **Grounds and lawn care** are coordinated through **Sudbury DPW** and separately funded.
- Conserved markers are **re-inspected on a schedule** set by their condition rating, and the record is updated.
- Condition tracking continues at no cost to the town through the public archive.
- The Commission will file the **annual project report** to the Director of Planning each October 15.

\$48,000 in Historic Preservation funds

47

MARKERS CONSERVED

Each with a written, individual scope of work.

1

HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVED

Before it falls across a cluster of stones.

2

HISTORIC FEATURES RESTORED

The iron fence and gate, and the boundary wall.

Sudbury's oldest burying ground is an open-air archive of the town's first two centuries. **Every marker lost is a record that cannot be rewritten.**