

PROJECT APPLICATION FORM – FY27

Applicant: Riverside Cemetery Board of Trustees **Submission Date:** Oct 3, 2025

Applicant's Address, Phone Number and Email **Purpose: (Please select all that apply)**

<u>274 Main Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719</u>	Open Space
<u>508-999-7751 or 774-644-3913</u>	Community Housing
<u>Sharon.riverside@juno.com /</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation
<u>cody.riversidecemetery.fhvn@gmail.com</u>	
_____	Recreation

Town Committee (if applicable) or other sponsoring organization:

Project Name: Riverside Cemetery Monument Restoration Project: Phase 1

Project Location/Address: 274 Main Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

Amount Requested: \$5,800

Project Summary: In the space below, or attached sheets if necessary, provide a detailed summary of the project citing the elements of the Guidelines for Submission and Review and Recommendation Criteria found in the Application Guidelines.

This project is seeking to restore historic gravestones at Riverside Cemetery. All gravestones selected for phase 1 are historical - from the earliest days of the cemetery - and are in highly visible areas. (See attached quote from vendor for the 34 we would like to start with.) The project will continue with the more difficult restorations or those in less visible areas until funds are exhausted.

Estimated Date for Commencement of Project: July 2026

Estimated Date for Completion of Project: December 2026

General Criteria for All Projects – Check off and Address each criterion as it applies:

- ✓ Is the project consistent with the goals of the Town of Fairhaven *Community Preservation Plan*?

- ✓ Does the project have other sources of funding? If so, indicate percentage.
The cemetery will contribute \$2,000 to this first phase of restorations. Donations are being solicited for continued work.

- ✓ Does the project leverage additional or multiple sources of public and/or private funding?
Donations are being solicited from public, lot holders, and other interested parties for continued work.

- ✓ Does the project preserve a threatened resource?
Historic grave markers are threatened by elements. Up-righting monuments will lessen deterioration. Newer methods of pinning stones to foundations with fiberglass rebar will allow for proper movement during weather changes, eliminate corrosion and save stones from further breakage.

- ✓ Is the project consistent with existing Planning Documents such as the Master Plan and Open Space Plan?

- ✓ Does the project comply with the zoning regulations?
- ✓ Does the project have a means of support for maintenance and upkeep, such as a defined maintenance plan?
(The Cemetery Board is committed to continued maintenance of property including historic gravestones.)
- Does the project involve currently owned municipal assets?
NA
- Does the project serve underserved populations or address more than one focus area of the CPA?
NA
- Does the project reclaim abandoned or previously developed lands?
NA
- Does the project require a Special Permit, NOI, Building Permit or other permitting? Please list all local and State permits you are aware of that the project will need?
NA
- ✓ Does the project have community support?
(Letters of support provided)
- ✓ Does the project have sufficient supporting documentation?
- ✓ Does the project provide a positive impact to the community?
- ✓ Has the applicant/ team demonstrated the ability and competency to implement the project as proposed?
(Riverside Cemetery Board of Trustees is made up of many talented persons committed to sustaining the beauty of Riverside for the Town and its citizens)
- ✓ Does the applicant have site control, or the written consent by the property owner to submit an application?
(See attached documentation.)

Historic Preservation Selection Criteria - Check off and Address each criterion as it applies:

- Is the building on the National or State Register of Historic Places?
- ✓ Is the property eligible for listing on the National or State Register of Historic Places?
To be listed on the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places, a property must be associated with significant historical events, or persons. Riverside cemetery is the resting place a several historical persons recognized both locally and nationally including Henry Huttleston, Capt. Alexander Winsor, Atkin Adams, Thomas Whitfield, Capt. William Whitfield, and Nathaniel Pope. It is the home of the Family tomb of Henry Huttleston Rogers and Warren Delano II.
- Has the property been included in the local Survey of Historic Properties (MACRIS)?
- Is the property in danger of being demolished?
- Are there potential archeological artifacts at the site?

- ✓ Did the property ever play a documented role in the history or is it noted in published histories of the Town?
(Millicent Library has extensive archives on the role of Riverside Cemetery in the Town's history. Historical walking tours are provided by Office of Tourism and other town associations. Every year the Memorial Day Parade ends at Riverside Cemetery for a Remembrance Service.)
- ✓ Are there any particularly important historic aspects about the property?
(As stated above, Riverside Cemetery is the final resting place for many important and historical figures. Riverside was also the receiving place for the remains of those buried in the Town's Willow Park cemetery when industrial progress required more space in the Town's Center.)
- ✓ Are there other potential uses for the property, which could benefit the Town?
(Riverside Cemetery is a garden style cemetery which is enjoyed daily by many town residents for peaceful contemplation, recreational walking, and wildlife observation.)
- Could the building be converted for affordable housing use while still retaining its historic character?
- ✓ Is the owner interested in preserving the historic integrity of the property?
(The Board of Trustees of Riverside Cemetery is absolutely committed to preserving the historic integrity of the property, while keeping it accessible for the community to enjoy.)
- Does the proposal conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties? Has previous work on the building conformed to the Standards?
- Was the structure built before 1921? Has it otherwise been identified as being historic or have cultural value?

Narrative: Riverside Cemetery began in the winter of 1846-47, when Warren Delano II, a Fairhaven native, a China trader and the grandfather of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, purchased a parcel of land that had once been part of the farm of Jonathan Nye. The cemetery was laid out and a corporation was formed in March 1850, with Delano's father, Warren I serving as its first president. The cemetery was consecrated on Sunday, July 7, 1850. The first burial, that of Miss Mary E. Delano, took place in August. More land was acquired in 1889 which now totals approximately 44 acres.

(From Riverside Cemetery, Fairhaven, MA Map & Guide, history written by Frederic D. Grant, current Vice President.)

Background: Riverside Cemetery deeds the land for use as a burial site for families based on rules and regulations established by the Board of Trustees. Monument upkeep is essentially the responsibility of the family, heirs and ancestors. As we know, certain families move away or die out with no one to care for ageing monuments. Over the years, the cemetery has gone through periods of financial difficulties which precluded upkeep of these monuments with several of the oldest falling into severe disrepair. With the advent of the on-site crematory, the Corporation enjoys a healthier financial position, but still must balance everyday operation costs with saving for the eventual day when there is no more land available for burials. We strive to keep the cemetery grounds pleasant and safe for our community to enjoy.

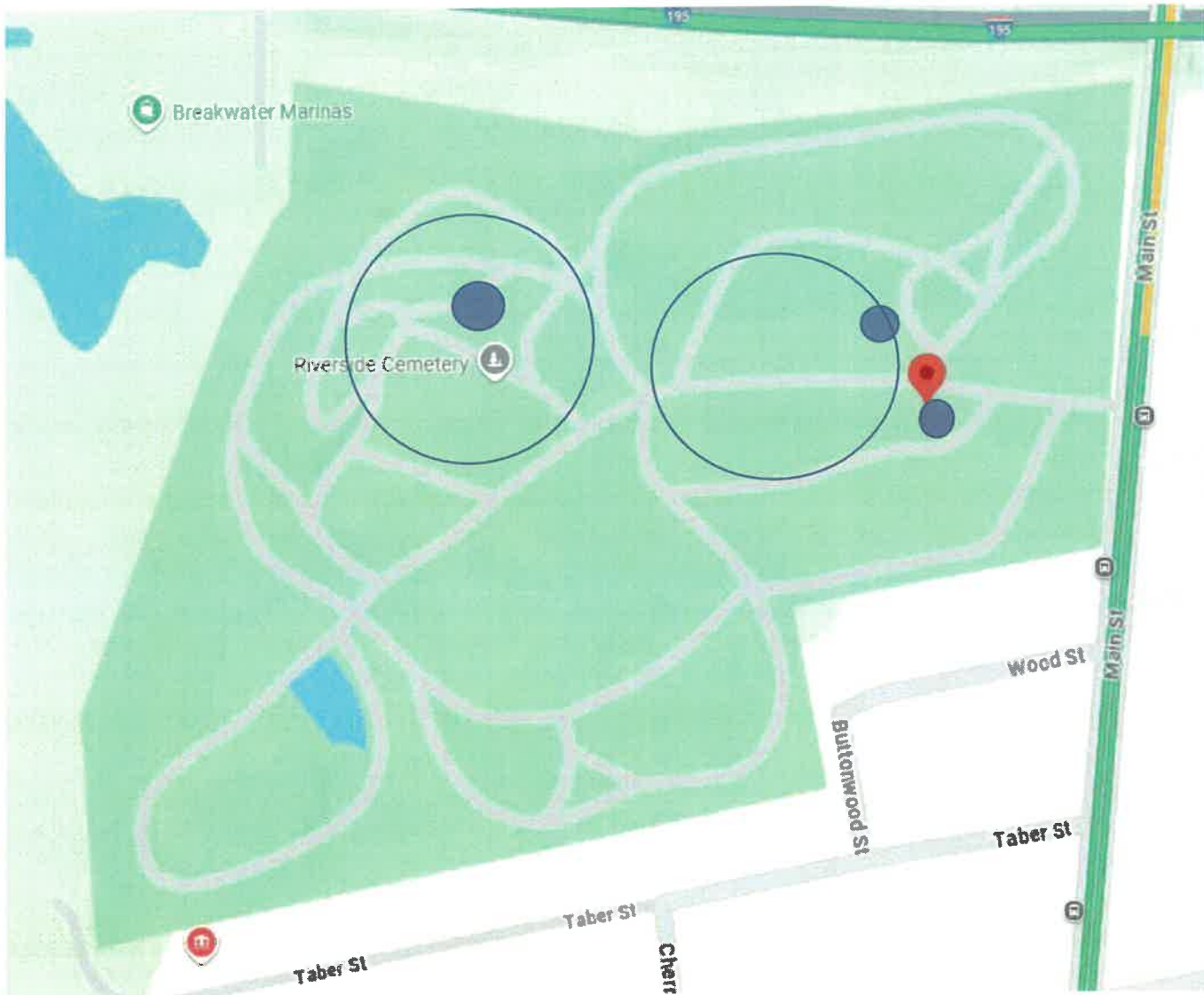
Project: Riverside would like to begin correcting deterioration of its historic stone monuments. We have chosen an initial 34 headstones which are most visible from the main drive and moving towards the areas which hold our earliest burials and historic family plots. We will be working with Gravestone Preservation LLC from Tiverton, RI for what we hope will be round one of several more efforts until all our historic monuments are in acceptable condition.

Site Control: Riverside Cemetery, Inc. has ownership of the land as is recorded in the Board of Assessors Parcel IDs: 16-001, 16-002, 18-075, 15-002, 17-130, 17-092. Property tax bills are attached.

Project Scope & Cost Estimate & Photos: We contacted three vendors. See attached document from vendor who replied and quoted.

Feasibility: No permits are required for this work and at this time there are no known potential barriers or impediments to the project.

Riverside Cemetery – google maps



Solid circles indicate areas where initial monuments to be repaired are located. Larger circles indicate areas where most of our historic stones are located. Work will continue, in subsequent phases, in these areas until all gravestones which can be repaired are restored.

About our vendor:

Gravestone Preservation, LLC offers gantry and stone jacking services. Other services include restoration, cleaning, resetting, leveling, pointing and patching of headstones, small monuments and family plots. Brick and stonework. Waterproofing.

The owner/operator is a union journeyman specializing in historic restoration masonry for nearly 30 years. And, is certified OSHA 30. Other certifications include Cathedral Stone Products, certified installer of limestone, marble, sandstone, brownstone, granite patching.

Gravestone Preservation, LLC is licensed and insured. Serving Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Veteran Owned. U.S. Coast Guard

401-862-4159

www.GravestonePreservationLLC.com

gravestonepreservation@yahoo.com



Photos are from vendor website of work at other cemeteries showing care and skill required for these types of restorations