Riverside Cemetery
Monument Restoration Project #2

Town of Fairhaven
Community Preservation Committee



Photo by Gravestone Preservation, LLC
Spooner Lot Restorations
Section 8, Riverside Cemetery

2028 Application

Submitted by
Riverside Cemetery Board of Trustees

CPC FY28 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS, FORM, CHECKLISTS & REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Final CPC Applications are Due Friday, October 2, 2026 by 12:00 pm.

Submit two (2) printed copies and one (1) digital copy of the application, including all attachments, to:

Community Preservation Committee
c/o Department of Planning & Economic Development
Fairhaven Town Hall
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Attach the following with all final applications: Please note additions to this year's application
Address each item as it applies:

- **Narrative:** A complete and detailed description of the project and, when applicable, of the property involved and its proposed use. Describe how the project will benefit the Town and the citizens of Fairhaven and how the project is consistent with the Community Preservation Plan's "Guidelines for Submission" and "Review and Recommendation Criteria." Include a work plan showing the anticipated steps or phases for completion of the project and the timing and estimated cost of each phase.
- **Checklist:** Check off and address each criterion that applies to your proposal on the checklists that are on pages 4-8 of this Application.
- **Site Control:** A copy of the deed, purchase and sale agreement, option agreement, or other document to prove that the applicant has site control; or the property owner's written consent to the application and to the proposed project. If site control is not established, please explain in detail.
- **Project Scope:** An itemized project scope, with details describing each item and its estimated cost.
- **Cost Estimate:** Professionally prepared appraisal; or professionally prepared cost estimate (or detailed cost estimate with full explanation by line item and back-up material). Large projects, historic preservation projects in particular, may require the assistance of a professional consultant.
- **Feasibility:** List and explain all further action or steps that will be required for completion of the project, such as environmental assessments, zoning or other permits and approvals, agreement on terms of any required conservation, affordability, or historic preservation restrictions, subordination agreements, and any known or potential barriers or impediments to project implementation.
- **Maps:** USGS topographical map, assessors map, and/or other map as appropriate, showing the location of the project.
- **Photographs:** Of the site, building, structure, and/or other subject for which the application is made.

Include the following, if applicable and available:

- Record plans of the land.
- Natural resource limitations (wetlands, flood plain, etc.).
- Zoning (district, dimensional and use regulations as applies to the land).
- Inspection reports.
- 21E Reports and other environmental assessment reports.
- Architectural plans and specifications for new construction and rehabilitation.
- Site plans and specifications.
- Maps, renderings, etc.
- Historic inventory sheet.
- Existing conditions report.
- Names and addresses of project architects, contractors, and consultants.
- Other information deemed useful for the Committee in considering the project.

Notes:

- Following the initial review of all applications, the Community Preservation Committee may request from applicants additional or more detailed information, and further clarifications to the submitted proposals. If the eligibility of the proposal for CPA funds is uncertain, the Committee may request from the applicant a legal opinion to help it assess CPA project eligibility and to provide answers to any other questions that the Committee may have before finalizing its recommendation to Town Meeting. If the Applicant has any questions about the eligibility of their proposal for CPA funding they may find detailed guidance in the Massachusetts General Laws for Community Preservation (Chapter 44B) at https://malegislature.gov/laws/generallaws/parti/titlevii/chapter44b

  or the Community Preservation Coalition website: https://www.communitypreservation.org/

  or the Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee website:

  https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/community-preservation-committee

- Once the Committee has made a preliminary selection of projects for funding, the Committee will work with the applicants for those projects to advance them for funding by Town Meeting.
- The Committee reserves the right to attach conditions, and to require deed restrictions and additional agreements, before its favorable funding recommendation to Town Meeting.

PROJECT APPLICATION FORM – FY28

Applicant: **Riverside Cemetery Board of Trustees** **Submission Date:** **Oct 2, 2026**

Applicant's Address, Phone Number and Email

274 Main Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719
508-999-7751 or 774-644-3913
Sharon.riverside@juno.com / cody.riversidecemetery.fhvn@gmail.com

Purpose: (Please select all that apply)

	Open Space
	Community Housing
X	Historic Preservation
	Recreation

Town Committee (if applicable) or other sponsoring organization:

Project Name: **Riverside Cemetery Monument Restoration Project: Phase 2**

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

Amount Requested: **$8,000**

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 continue restoration of historic gravestones at Riverside Cemetery. All gravestones are historical - from the earliest days of the cemetery. This round includes several markers from the 1896 removal of bodies from the "Old Burying Ground" at Willow Park, to Riverside Cemetery to make way for the railroad. (See attached quote from vendor.) The project will continue with until funds are exhausted.

Estimated Date for Commencement of Project: **July 2027**

Estimated Date for Completion of Project: **December 2027**

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 at least $2,000 from its operating budget to this second 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?

✓ 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 have been 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. Riverside Cemetery was one of the first cemeteries to embrace the "garden style" design of the mid 1800s and its tombs were designed by well-known and important architects.)

- ✓ 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 continue correcting deterioration of its historic stone monuments. To date 66 monuments have been restored of the over 180 which are broken. Riverside Cemetery has expended $10,000 from funds raised for monument restoration as well as $2,000 from its operating budget. The 2027 Community Preservation Grant Funds of $5,000 restored 16 monuments, which required more challenging restorations. Riverside Cemetery will continue to work with Gravestone Preservation LLC from Tiverton, RI for what we hope will be another round of restoration efforts. We are committed to seeing all our historic monuments returned to acceptable condition. Should a third phase of restorations be needed we will also include restoration needs at Naskatucket Cemetery. Naskatucket Cemetery is the oldest in Fairhaven and was given to Riverside Cemetery in the 1970's as their Board was no longer able to manage the property.

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: See attached document about vendor. Vendor has noted that due to tariffs and inflation, the cost of his materials has increased significantly since last year. Before and after photos of most recent restorations are attached.

Feasability: 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



White circles with red outlines indicate areas where monuments have been repaired. Blue shapes indicate where monuments for this grant are located.

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, Mike Christello, a union journeyman has specialized in historic restoration masonry for nearly 30 years. The vender is OSHA 30certified. Other certifications include Cathedral Stone Products, certified installer of limestone, marble, sandstone, brownstone, granite patching.

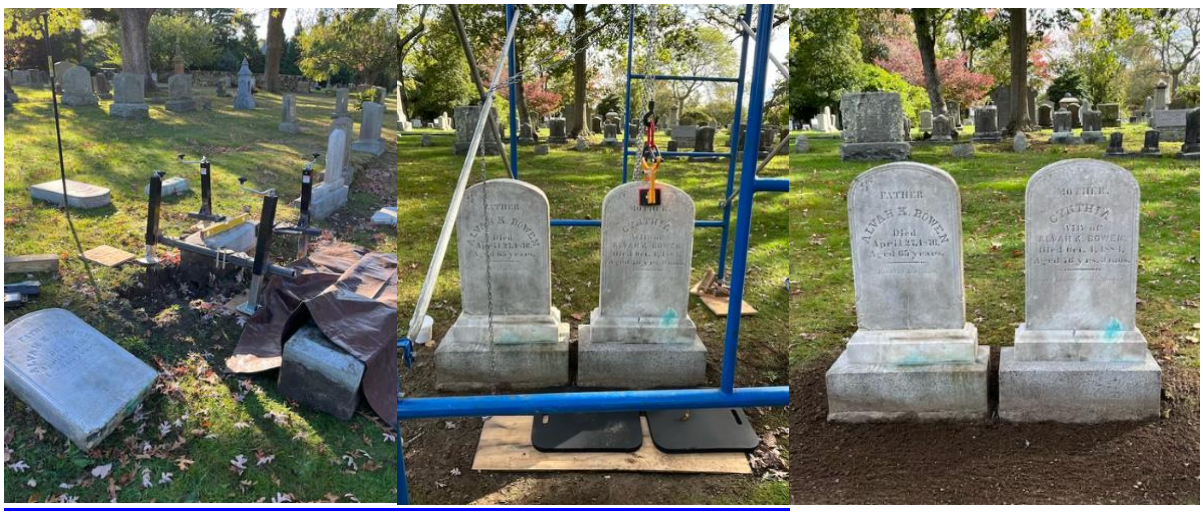
Gravestone Preservation, LLC is licensed and insured. Serving Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Veteran Owned. U.S. Coast Guard

401-862-4159

www.GravestonePreservationLLC.com (The Vendors website includes many of the restorations done at Riverside Cemetery.)

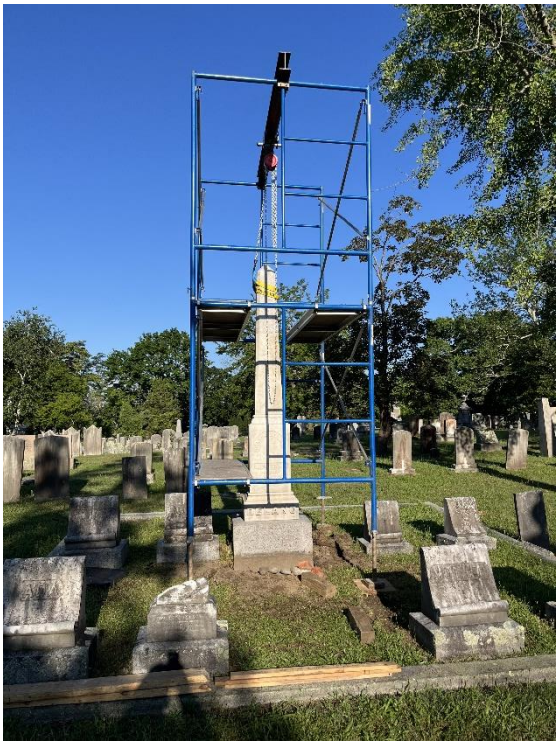
gravestonepreservation@yahoo.com



Photos are from vendor website of restoration of Alvah & Cynthia Bowen monument Restorations in Section 5 of Riverside Cemetery.



Before and after photos of the restoration of Joshua Delano Monument at Riverside Cemetery 2026. The monument was in 3 pieces which had to be excavated and reassembled after the base was leveled and the stone cleaned. (Section 8, Riverside Cemetery)







Thomas & Cynthia Brimblecome monuments were in several pieces. All pieces were excavated, keystone & base fractures were repaired, headstone fractures were repaired, base was leveled, and the stones were reset and cleaned. (Section 8, Riverside Cemetery)

