



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

CITY CLERKS OFFICE
NEW BEDFORD, MA
2019 APR 18 P 3:29
CITY CLERK

April 16, 2019

Council President Linda M. Morad and
Members of the City Council
City Hall
New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: Preservation Restriction (PR) for Rural Cemetery

Dear Council President Morad and Members of the City Council:

Enclosed please find a proposed Order authorizing the Mayor to execute, on behalf of the City of New Bedford, a Preservation Restriction (PR) for Rural Cemetery. The restriction is given as part of a \$50,000.00 grant to be awarded by the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF), and matched by Community Preservation Act ("CPA") funds, for a total of \$100,000.00, and is authorized under G.L. c. 184 §§ 31-33.

The MPPF is a state-funded 50% reimbursable matching grant program established in 1984 to support the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites listed in the State Register of Historic Places. The City received a Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) grant in 2017 to survey and assess the condition of gravestone markers in the earliest section of Rural Cemetery. The resulting Condition Assessment Report determined that of the approximately 6,000 markers that were surveyed, 798 were identified as requiring immediate treatment. The report also provided conservation specifications for each identified marker and cost estimates. Aside from 16 large stacked stones identified in the survey as potential safety hazards, the most pressing conservation issue at Rural Cemetery is the toppled and broken marble markers. The proposed grant, if awarded, would fund the conservation of the 16 markers identified in the survey as potential safety hazards, along with approximately 150 "Priority 1" high risk markers.

As a requirement of the MPPF Grant funding, a perpetual PR must be recorded and held by the MHC. This PR is limited to the northeast corner, known as the earliest section of Rural Cemetery. The purpose of the preservation restriction is to ensure the preservation of those characteristics which contribute to the architectural, archaeological and historical integrity of the Restricted Area which have been listed in the National and/or State Registers of Historic Places. MHC recognizes that Rural Cemetery is an active cemetery and internments would not be adversely affected by the PR.

As the PR must be executed, recorded and properly filed prior to receipt of the MHC grant funding, I respectfully request that prompt attention be given to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Jon Mitchell
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right, positioned over the typed name and title.



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

April 25, 2019

ORDERED that, the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of the City of New Bedford, a Preservation Restriction (PR) for the Rural Cemetery, in substantially the same form as the attached draft. A description of the Rural Cemetery location is attached as Exhibit A.