



TOWN OF CONCORD
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
 141 KEYES ROAD, CONCORD, MA 01742
 TEL. (978) 318-3290 FAX (978) 318-3291

Application for CPA Funding
Due no later than 4:00pm on Friday, October 9, 2020

Applicant: Melissa Saalfeld and Rebecca Purcell

Co-Applicant (if applicable): Town of Concord

Project Name: Emerson Field Flagpok

Project Location/Address: Emerson Field

Purpose: (Select all that apply)

- Open Space Community Housing Historic Preservation Recreation

Project Budget:

Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$ 14,250⁰⁰
 Amount from Other Funding Sources: \$ _____
 Total Project Budget: \$ 14,250⁰⁰
 (If multi-year project, note current phase only)

Please check which of the following is included with this Application:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One Paragraph Project Summary * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timeline * |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map (if applicable) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architectural plans, site plans, photographs (if appropriate) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Narrative * | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Audit or most recent Financial Information (Non Profit Organizations Only)* |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selection Criteria and Needs Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Support (if any) <u>will be delivered under separate cover</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Detailed Project Budget * | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feasibility Assessment | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Sustainability (if applicable) | |

* Required Documentation

The Contact Person for this Project is: Melissa Saalfeld

All Correspondence should be mailed to: Melissa Saalfeld 7 Concord Greene #7, Concord

The Contact Person can be reached by phone at: 508-517-4914 or by email at: mjc.saalfeld@gmail.com

Signature of Applicant:

Signature of Property Owner (if different):

For Historic Preservation Projects Only – please check the box below left and acknowledge:

- I/We have read the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and understand that planning for and execution of this project must meet these standards.

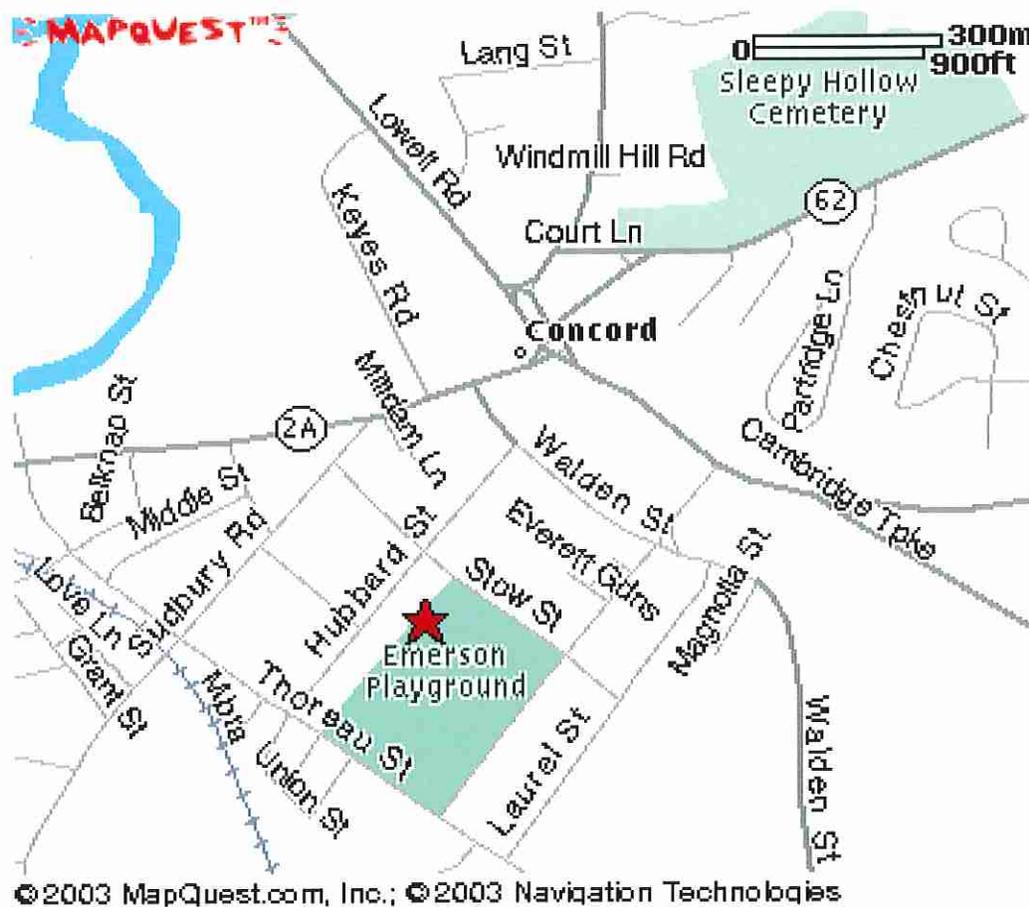
TO: Community Preservation Committee

FR: Melissa Saalfield and Rebecca Purcell on behalf of the Town of Concord

RE: EMERSON FIELD FLAGPOLE

Project Summary:

Time and the elements have taken their toll on the historic flagpole in the center of Concord's Emerson Field. First erected in 1929, the pole which is approximately 75 feet tall, has been lovingly tended by both town employees and volunteers who have raised and lowered the flag in respect of flag protocol. After a successful fundraising campaign nearly 20 years ago, lights were installed to allow for illumination during the night, again in respect of flag protocol. That illumination has only amplified what is visible by daylight...severe rust and flaking paint. This application written on behalf of the Town of Concord seeks \$14,250 from the Community Preservation Committee to fund the refurbishment of the pole.



Flagpole is located in center of Emerson Playground

Narrative:

This application for funding is submitted under the Community Preservation Act category of *Historic Preservation* and is presented on behalf of the Town of Concord, which owns the pole, flag, associated monuments and land on which it stands. The justification of the flag's historic importance follows.

On September 12, 1929, members of the James J. Mansfield Post 158 of the American Legion dedicated a flagpole in the center of Concord's Emerson Field. The pole was presented to the Town of Concord as a gift from veterans of World War I and other patriotic citizens of the town. It was a rousing ceremony, accompanied by a 21-gun salute fired by the Concord Battery. Following presentations of flags to the Playground Committee and chair of the Select Board, the dedication concluded with a bugler sounding "Retreat" followed by singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The celebration included the official burying of a time capsule, a 75mm shell casing placed inside a four-inch iron pipe embedded in concrete and placed at the base of the flagpole. A bronze cap inscribed with the word "Documents" was affixed to the top of the iron pipe. The encased "documents" were as follows:

- List of contributors to the Flagpole on Emerson playground
- Town Report for year 1928
- Old series \$1.00 bill
- New series \$1.00 bill
- Boston Transcript, September 10, 1929
- List of persons in Concord, April 1, 1929
- Regular issue 2-cent stamp
- General Sullivan Commemorative issue 2 cent stamp
- Concord-Lexington Commemorative issue 1-, 2-, and 5-cent stamps
- Concord-Lexington half dollar
- Concord Journal, September 5, 1929

Since its dedication, the flagpole and flag have been steadfastly cared for by both town employees and dedicated volunteers. Early on there was concern for the proper daily raising and lowering of the flag. In 1961, the "Lest We Forget" program was launched by Concord pediatrician and World War II veteran, Dr. Francis McDonald. Families volunteered to raise and lower the flag for a designated time. Their efforts were supported by Jim Bezanson, a janitor at the Hunt Recreation Center, who cared for the flag for a number of years.

In the late 80's, volunteers, notably Michael Rudd and Rebecca Purcell, drew the town's attention to the need for repainting the pole, but perhaps more important, to the need for its vandal-proofing. The halyard was regularly cut or stolen, up to three and four times a year. To protect the halyard from further vandalism, an external sleeve with locked access was welded to the pole.

The daily routine of raising and lowering the flag in accordance with flag protocol was becoming ever more challenging. Relying on volunteers to supplement town efforts was not an adequate solution. Michael Rudd and Rebecca Purcell proposed to illuminate the pole. They noted that American flag protocol required that the flag never be left flying in the dark. The flag should either be lowered at dusk and raised at dawn, or, be illuminated. Their proposal was unanimously supported by the Recreation Commission. The Concord Municipal Light Plant offered its assistance to install and maintain the lights. Rudd and Purcell led a fundraising campaign to support the cost of the installation.

Since 2001, the flag at Emerson Field has been illuminated. In 2020, that illumination reveals a flagpole once again in need of care and attention from the citizens of Concord. The flagpole, standing approximately 75 feet tall, clearly exhibits the effects of New England's demanding weather, which has taken its toll. The pole is severely rusted. Paint on the base is flaking and rust is clearly evident. The historic marker on the pole needs cleaning and polishing. The location of the dog waste bag dispenser so close to the historic flagpole is disrespectful though perhaps understandable. A 75-foot pole is hard to miss thus, hopefully, dog owners also see the dog waste bag station. This juxtaposition is not a part of this application but, hopefully, once the flagpole is refurbished, the town might consider relocating the pet waste bag dispenser. Additionally, the rock with attached plaque (also in need of refurbishment) is just plunked here. The Town might consider relocating this stone monument to another location on Emerson Field which draws greater notice to its importance.

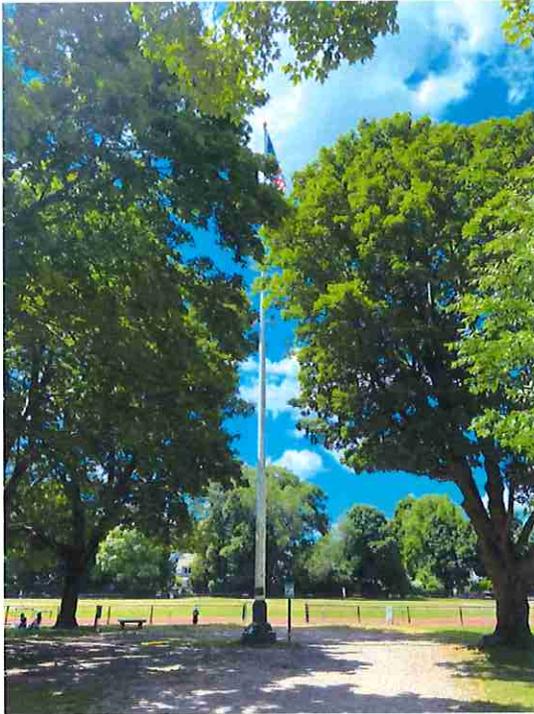
Budget/Scope of Work:

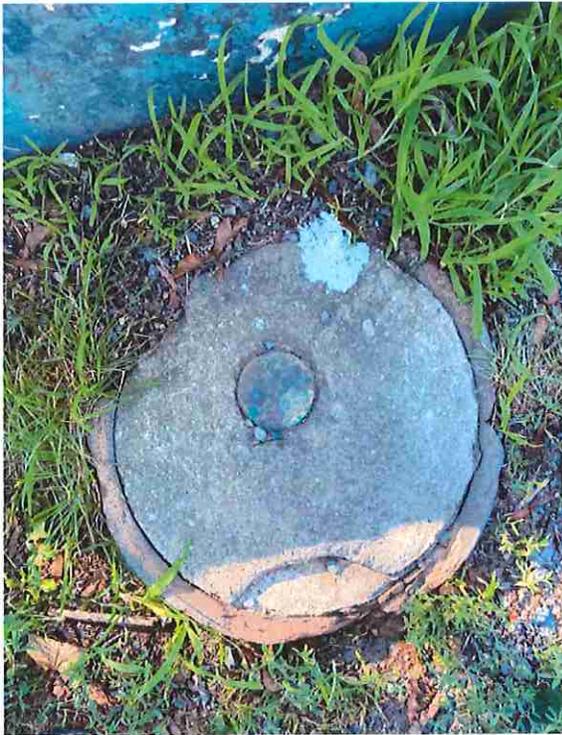
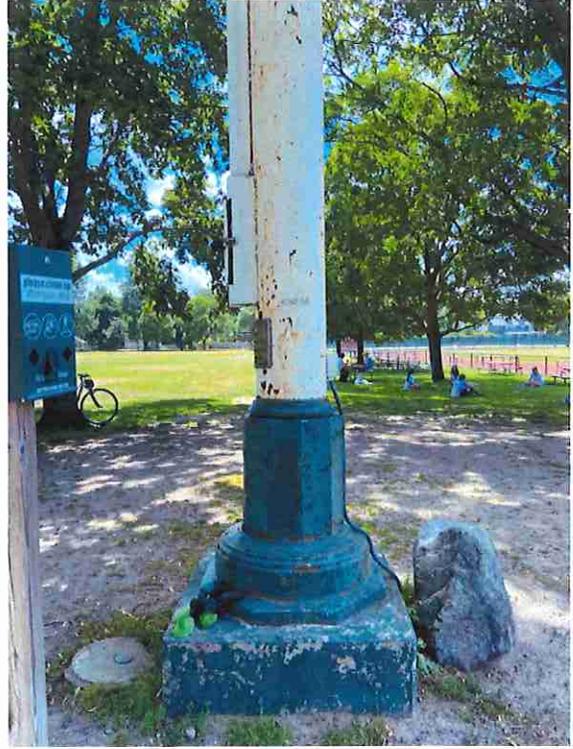
- Erect access to the top of the flagpole as required.
- Provide debris netting as required to capture all paint chips.
- Replace the flag rope with a new nylon rope.
- Prepare the pole by scraping and or wire brushing the pole to remove any loose or peeling paint
- Paint the pole by priming with a rust inhibiting primer
- Paint the pole with two coats of Sherwin Williams DTM (Direct to Metal) acrylic paint
- Clean up all paint chips.
- Remove all access

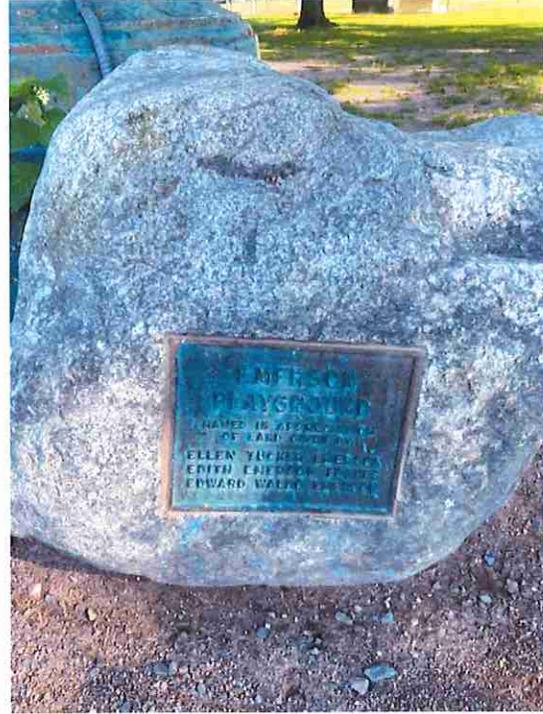
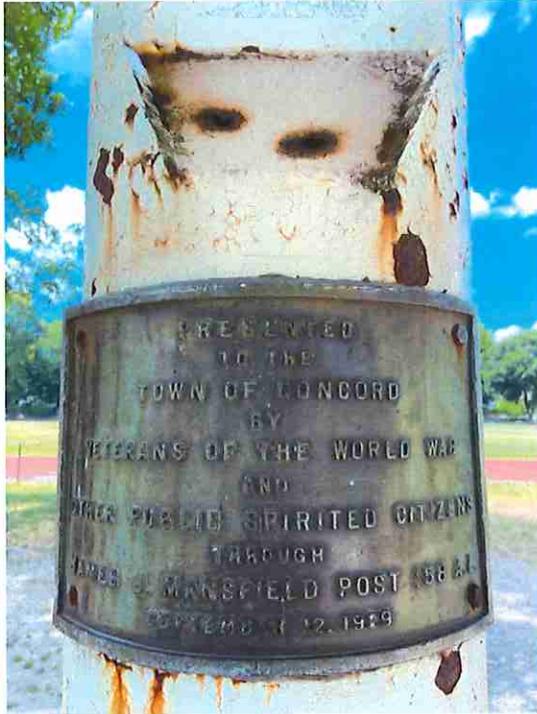
Total cost of above work is estimated to be \$ 14,250.00

This budget was provided by YSC, Inc., the Yankee SteepleJack Company, Tom Evarts, Principal. The company has been in business over 20 years. Initially established to provide restoration services to churches throughout New England and New York, the company has evolved into a full-service restoration and construction contractor. The company is a known contractor to the Town of Concord having provided painting/restoration services to the Town's flagpole in Concord's Monument Square within the past decade. Evarts anticipates the project will take one week assuming good weather throughout.

Photos of the flagpole indicating rust, flaking painting, proximity to dog waste bag dispenser, odd juxtaposition of monument bearing Emerson Field bronze plaque and historic time capsule.







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Letters in support of this project will be provided under separate cover.

Contact Information:

- Melissa Saalfield – [mjc.saalfield@gmail.com/](mailto:mjc.saalfield@gmail.com) 508 517 4814
- Rebecca Purcell – [dahliaqueen@comcast.net/](mailto:dahliaqueen@comcast.net) 978 831 3437