



**TOWN OF CONCORD**  
**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
141 KEYES ROAD, CONCORD, MA 01742  
TEL. (978) 318-3290 FAX (978) 318-3291

September 12, 2022

Ms. Diane Proctor, Chair  
Community Preservation Committee  
Town of Concord  
141 Keyes Road  
Concord, MA 01742

Dear Ms. Proctor,


On behalf of the Concord Historical Commission, I submit this letter in enthusiastic support of the grant proposal from the Concord Cemetery Committee (CCC). The CCC has requested funding in the amount of \$340,000 as partial support of its ambitious but essential project to restore and repair deteriorating stone walls and structures in Concord's three historic cemeteries: the Old Hill Burying Ground, the South Burying Ground and Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

These cemeteries are without question among the most important cemeteries in our country. The Old Hill Burying Ground includes graves from as early as 1677 and serves as the final resting place for many Revolutionary War veterans and John Jack, a former slave. The South Burying Ground, established to accommodate folks south of Concord's mill pond dam, dates its earliest death and burial to 1697. Sleepy Hollow, the town's largest and one of two still active cemeteries, includes the graves of some of America's most important literary figures, united in death at their final resting place on Author's Ridge. *Mourning Victory*, the exquisite sculpture created by Daniel Chester French, commemorates the Melvin Brothers, casualties of our Civil War.

As Concord prepares for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the events which launched America's independence, many seminal institutions, sites and landmarks are being refurbished in anticipation of the many thousands who will want to share in this observance. The proposal by the Cemetery Committee clearly delineates the deteriorating state of these three cemeteries and offers specific remedies in each case.

The Concord Historical Commission encourages you and the Community Preservation Committee to fund this proposal for the full amount requested.

Sincerely,

  
Melissa C. Saalfield, Chair  
Concord Historical Commission

cc  
Kerry LaFleur, Town Manager  
Matthew Johnson, Chair, Select Board