



TOWN OF HAMILTON

APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING

Date: August 1, 2018

Project Title: Restoration of Cannons in Patton Park

Name of Applicant: Town of Hamilton Department of Public Works

Name of Organization: Town of Hamilton Public Works

Address: Hamilton Town Hall, 577 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA

Telephone: 978-468-5516 (Dorr); 978-626-5227 (Tim)

Email: dfox@hamiltonma.gov

CPA Category (circle all that apply):

Open Space

Historic Preservation

Recreation

Community Housing

CPA Funding Requested: \$5,500 **Total Project Cost:** \$5,500

Please attach answers to the following questions. Include supporting materials as necessary.

1. **Project Description:** Please give a detailed project description, including specific objectives.

The purpose of this grant is to provide funds to restore the cannons in Patton Park. These cannons are located along Bay Road. The following are photos of the cannons as they appeared last year.



This past year, the cannon wheels were restored through CPC funds. The wheels are shown in the following photo. They are currently being stored in the barn at the Patton Homestead. The intention is to place them on the cannons once the cannons are restored.

*Please read through the CPA Guidelines for Project Submission
prior to completing this application.*



The CPC suggested having the wheels professionally restored. The CPC suggested contacting Cassidy Brothers to complete the project. Cassidy Brothers has submitted an estimate that the cost of restoration would be \$5,500. The DPW is requesting these funds to complete the project.

The following is a history of the cannons that has been prepared by Ray Whipple, the Chair of the Hamilton Historical Society:

Our two cannons in Patton Park have been refurbished and have acquired a new set of wheels. In 1922, after several years of debate about creating a monument recognizing the service of our various veterans, Hamilton placed two similar items on the town warrant. One article was a motion to act on the offer of Mrs. George v. L. Meyer Sr. for a memorial to the soldiers and sailors of the Civil, Spanish & World wars to be placed on the triangular green opposite the cemetery. This was followed by a similar request by the Augustus Peabody Gardner American Legion post 194 to appropriate \$3000 to fund the erection of a monument to Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of all wars in the same area. A committee was appointed to investigate the ideas and to form a recommendation.

The result of their work was the monument on the Soldier's Green as it appears today, dedicated to the men and women of all wars. The plaque reads as follows: In memoriam / erected by / the citizens of this town / in honor of / her patriotic men and women / who served their country / in time of war. / To the dead a tribute / To the living a memory / To posterity an emblem of loyalty / To the flag of their country / 1924

The committee also recommended that three cannons be obtained from the government and

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placed on the corners of the Green. So General Clarence C. Williams, a resident of the town, was able to procure two Civil War relics and one more modern cannon which were placed with a large celebration on the Green on October 5, 1924. The cannons remained in their duty as guardians of the Soldier's monument for many years; one facing down Farms (now Cutler) Road and the other two facing down Main Street (now Bay Road), one facing Ipswich, the other facing Wenham.

On special occasions (often Halloween) some young men would take one of the Civil War cannons on a tour of the town. The stress of those trips and the ravages of New England weather necessitated periodic restorations. One time, Constance Williams, the wife of General Williams and widow of Augustus Peabody Gardner, paid to have the two Civil War cannons restored. However, when one of the Civil War guns became too deteriorated to be repaired, the two remaining cannons were relocated to Patton Park. There the cannons were secured and raised off the ground. However, they still were victims of our weather and an occasional vandal.

During the early morning of April 19, 1965 an individual sawed through the bolts securing the remaining Civil War cannon and towed it down Bay Road toward Ipswich. One wheel of the cannon started to break up soon after starting and came completely apart shortly beyond the town hall. The cannon was abandoned in terrible disrepair by the thief.

Considering the date, was this an act of a vandal or war protester who did not understand their function as reminders of the time and/or blood given by past and current citizens of our town? After being repaired the two cannons survived another fifty years assisting the Sherman tank as guardians of Patton Park.

However, again the weather took its toll. Therefore, our Community Preservation Committee used money designated for preserving our historical artifacts and had them repaired. The wheels of both surviving cannons were reconstructed. The cannons themselves need to be sanded and painted. Once again, the cannons may be back on duty after serving nearly a century as reminders of our veterans' service.

2. **Goals:** How does this project accomplish the goals of the CPA? (See Guidelines for Project Submission for general criteria.)

The CPC Plan states that projects should “assure the endurance of key historic buildings, stone walls, mature trees and vistas that represent Hamilton’s history and define its visual character”.

The cannons in Patton Park are key historical objects within the Town of Hamilton.

They are currently in poor condition and should be restored. The cannon wheels were restored this year and will be placed on the cannons once they are restored.

The CPC Plan states one of the CPC’s review criteria is whether or not the project preserves historic resources that are a priority to the Town, as defined by the Hamilton Historical Commission. The Historical Commission determined that the cannons are historically significant at its meeting on August 9, 2018.

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3. **Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for all critical milestones? Will this be a multi-year/multi-faceted project? If so, the proposal should be submitted in two phases; phase one for the study/engineering, followed by phase two for the project completion.

The intention is to start the project in the October 2018, if funds are approved.

4. **Budget:** Please provide a full budget including the following information, as applicable.

(NOTE: CPA funds may not be used for maintenance):

- a. Total amount of the project cost, with itemization of major components.

The total project costs are \$5,500 which includes the total restoration of the cannons.

- b. Additional funding sources. Please include those that are available, committed, or under consideration including fundraising, other grants, etc.

There is a grant program administered by the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board for Preservation Grants for Veterans Collections, Monuments and Memorials. However, this grant program is very competitive and grants will not be awarded until the spring of 2019.

- c. Describe the basis for your budget and the sources of information you used, including evidence detailing that the lowest bid has been received.

The budget is based upon a proposal by Cassidy Brothers, who is the most appropriate vendor for the project.

5. **Support:** Have the appropriate Town Boards and Commissions expressed support and/or approved the project? What is the nature and level of community support for this project? Please provide evidence that you are qualified and eligible to undertake the project.

The Hamilton Historical Commission determined that the cannons are historically significant objects in the town of Hamilton and should be restored.

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