

**South Dennis
Congregational Church
Cemetery
&
West Dennis Cemetery
Burial Marker
Preservation and Repair**

**Application for
Dennis Community Preservation Funds
Calendar Year 2018**

**Submitted by the
Dennis Cemetery Advisory Committee**



APPLICATION FOR

DENNIS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS - Calendar Year 2018

SYNOPSIS

1. *Project Title:* South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery & West Dennis Cemetery Burial Marker Preservation and Repair

2. *Organization Name:* Dennis Cemetery Advisory Committee

3. *Amount Requested from CPA funds:* \$ **South Dennis Congregational Cemetery**
 Monument Repairs \$80,000
 Monument Cleaning \$136,000

West Dennis Cemetery
 Monument Repairs \$10,000
 Monument Cleaning \$0

Total: \$226,000

4. *Purpose:* Historic Preservation

5. *Project site location:* South Dennis Congregational Cemetery, 226 Old Main Street, South Dennis, 02660

12 acres,
 South Dennis Historic District,
 zoning district: residential 40



West Dennis Cemetery,
 60 Fisk Street, West Dennis, 02670
 12 acres, S. Dennis Historic District,
 zoning district: residential 40

6. *Synopsis of Project:* repair and cleaning of burial markers in need of stabilization and preservation, especially those that present a public liability.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

7. *Project Title:* South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery & West Dennis Cemetery Burial Marker Preservation and Repair

8. *Organization Name:* Dennis Cemetery Advisory Committee

9. *Address:* Dennis Department of Public Works, 120 Theophilus F. Smith Road, S. Dennis, MA 02660

10. *Federal Tax Identification Number:* EO.46001129 (Town of Dennis)

11. *Contact Person(s):*

Primary: Greg Rounseville, Deputy Director of Public Works

Phone: 508-760-6220

E-mail: grouseville@town.dennis.ma.us

Secondary: Diane Rochelle, Chair Cemetery Advisory Committee

Phone: 508-394-7311

E-mail: whiskeyboo@comcast.net

11a. *Name of Person Who Will Receive Funds*

Primary: MaryAnne Gibbs – Town of Dennis Accountant

Secondary:

APPLICANT BACKGROUND

12. *Brief Applicant history:* The Cemetery Advisory Committee is a town appointed committee working with the Superintendent of Public Works to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen the cemeteries in Dennis. They shall review cemetery rules and regulations, plan future improvements and be responsive to the interests and concerns of lot owners as they relate to operations and maintenance.

13. *Names of governing board, trustees or directors:* Diane Rochelle; Chair, Terril Ann Fox, Vice Chair; Boni Heleen; Jane Stevens; Joseph Theroux

14. *Summary of comparable projects completed:* 2006 CPC Grant, Cemetery Restoration; 2008 CPC Grant, Ancient Cemetery Restoration; 2011 CPC Grant, Obed Baxter Fence Restoration at South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery; 2014 MSC Civil War Preservation Grant

PROJECT INFORMATION

15. *Project Concept:* To preserve these ancient burial grounds of Dennis in their historic setting and maintain a respectful and safe environment for their visitors. They will forever need to be protected from the effects of the weather. Even though we survey and document the burial markers, once they are damaged beyond repair, they are no more. The Cemetery Advisory Committee has addressed many of our 16 burial grounds. We continue our stewardship of all of them.

16. *Project Goals/ Objectives:* Our goal in this grant proposal is to complete the preservation & stabilization of SDCCC and to repair the most recent fallen stones at WDC, whose preservation & stabilization was completed last year. These cemeteries are outdoor museums of Dennis history as well as memorials to those buried within their bounds. Through stone carvers and their art we gain insight into past burial and mourning traditions. Through epitaphs and personal engraving we learn some history of the person interred. Through war markers and American flags we offer respect to veterans who served our country.

In 1795 local residents voted to establish the South Parish Meeting House on land originally owned by John Nickerson, grandson of one of the first settlers, along with an adjacent burying ground. Nearby land granted by

Bathsheba Baker in 1846 became known as the South Congregational Burying Ground. Cemetery care was taken over by the South Dennis Cemetery association in 1882 when these two cemeteries were combined as one. Following other expansion the **South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery** was deeded to the town and is still an active cemetery located in the South Dennis Historic District. The earliest marked grave is that of Mr. Isaiah Baker (d. 25 Sep 1795, in his 57th year) and the landscape suggests that there are many unmarked graves. Reverend John Sanford (1788-1866), first permanent pastor of the South Parish Meeting House lies here. The church, also called “The Sea Captains’ Church”, honors the many mariners, both interred and lost at sea, who made South Dennis a prosperous maritime center. Among these are: Capt. Samuel Chase (1760-1845) who served in the Massachusetts Militia, and the Continental Line at Valley Forge, fathering his last child at the age of 81; Capt. James Nickerson (1744-1815), a Revolutionary soldier, sea captain, and owner of a local grist mill; brothers Capt. Jonathan Nickerson Jr., Master (1807-1847) and John S. Nickerson, First Officer (1819-1847), both lost in the wreck of the schooner Sarah Adams along the coast of Ireland.

West Dennis Cemetery, located at the corner of Fisk and Pond Streets in West Dennis Village, originated ca. 1700 as the Crowell Family Burying Ground. In 1857 the Methodist Congregation voted to purchase an adjacent acre then owned by Capt. Freeman Crowell which later became known as the Church Burying Ground. As additional land was added it became known as the Village Cemetery. Finally it was taken over by the town, became known as West Dennis Cemetery and continues to be used as an active burial ground. The earliest inscribed headstone belongs to Caroline Crowell (d. 1833) although spacing of the remaining slates suggests many unmarked burials may exist. Crowell, Baker and Kelley family members, some of the earliest settlers of “Crow Town” and “South Village” are thought to be buried here. West Dennis Village borders Bass River whose deep water supported a thriving maritime and fishing industry. A memorial honor roll at West Dennis Community Church lists 123 sea captains many of whom rest in this cemetery.

Site visits are welcomed. Please contact:
Department of Public Works
120 Theophilus F. Smith Road
South Dennis, MA 02660
508-760-6220

17. *Describe any legal issues, ramifications, impediments, if any:* N/A

18. *Describe how this Project accomplishes the goals and objectives of the CPA:* It restores and preserves these c1795 & c1833 historic resources in which are buried South Parish & West Dennis residents, sea captains, mariners and Veterans of American wars for today, tomorrow and generations to come. These cemeteries are always open to the public and their historic significance is long documented. Town of Dennis operating budget allows for grounds maintenance. It does not include funds for preservation, restoration, stabilization or repair of burial markers. Cemetery Advisory Committee provides guided tours of its restored historic cemeteries and publicizes the preservation grants received.

19. *Describe how this Project is relevant to the current and future needs of Dennis:* It provides preservation of the heritage, history and setting for generations of today and the future.

20. *Describe how this Project relates to the Dennis Local Comprehensive Plan:* It preserves and protects the heritage and community character of Dennis. It serves to instill pride in residents and visitors, both young and old.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION & BUDGET

21. *Total CPA Funding Request:* **\$226,000**

22. Financial Plan:

The preservation & stabilization survey of South Dennis Congregational Cemetery is complete. There are over 1,000 headstones, footstones and plot markers in SDCCC. West Dennis Cemetery was surveyed, and repairs completed last year, but March wind storms damaged more stones. There is no current funding to repair this damage. The stones and plots of WDC were cleaned by Charles McGibbon, a 4 ½ year volunteer project.

Project Budget

SDCCC Headstone Repairs	\$ 80,000	
WDC Headstone Repairs	<u>\$ 10, 000</u>	
Total Repairs		\$ 90,000
SDCCC Stone Cleaning	<u>\$ 136,000</u>	
Total Project Budget		\$ 226,000

23. *Evidence of interest from potential lenders:* N/A

24. *List of funding source(s), include private/public/in-kind:* committee and community volunteer efforts, Dept. of Public Works and Town of Dennis support.

25. *For Community Housing Projects:* N/A

SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

26. *Letters of support:* Edmund Nickerson

27. *References:* N/A

28. *Other relevant materials specific to the Project:* Detailed Project Cost & Photos

29. *Copy of most recent US Income Tax Form 990:* N/A

30. *Certificates of Non-Collusion and Application Submitted by:* **Attached**

TO: Community Preservation Act Committee

FR: Edmond Rhodes Nickerson

RE: South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery

DT: 28 April 2018

I write to enthusiastically endorse the application of the Dennis Historical Commission for funds to restore the monumentation in the South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery. The existing conditions of the headstones has been deplorable for many, many years, and area citizens and civic associations have repeatedly appealed and pleaded with the Cemetery Advisory Committee and the Department of Public Works to undertake a comprehensive restoration project to restore and rehabilitate the decrepit monumentation for a decade or more.

Owing to the accelerated deterioration of the stones, one could easily understand that the cost of the work required could easily fall within the range of \$125,000 to \$200,000, to complete the exacting work on a headstone-by-headstone basis, each requiring varying degrees of rehabilitation --- and many of which lay in pieces flat on the ground and having been abused by a combination of mowing equipment and etching owing to acid rain.

Because of the age of a disproportionate number of stones made from soft marble in this cemetery in particular during the prosperous mid-nineteenth century by area sea captains, an extensive amount of "rebar" work is required to firmly affix the headstones to their bases and, in many cases, for the brownstone and/or marble bases to be completely replaced. As each day passes, the cost of this important work continues to accelerate.

It is ironic that it was the deplorable condition of the monumentation in this cemetery that precipitated the town-wide movement a decade ago to commence restoration in each of the other cemeteries, and that this cemetery was routinely pushed to the bottom of the list owing to the sheet size and scope of work required here. The \$60,000 CPC grant to restore the ornate fence surrounding the Captain Obed Baxter plot, championed by the Cemetery Advisory Committee and seen through to a resoundingly successful completion by the DPW's Gregory Rounseville was an important piece of the history and character of Dennis that was nearly lost forever.

On an important related note, genealogy is the nation's number one hobby and pastime. Visitors -both individuals and families- routinely journey from far and wide to search for their roots and trace their ancestors lives at Dennis cemeteries, The South Dennis Cemetery is routinely found sporting vehicles with out-of-state license plates and their occupants with cameras, iPads, pens and paper in hand, roaming the graveyard in search of their ancestors' graves. Importantly, these same visitors are patronizing local businesses ranging from hotels, motels, restaurants, and retail stores to beaches, conservation areas and other historic sites. Good maintenance of our cemeteries is good business for Dennis that pays handsome economic rewards.

I strongly implore the Committee to visit the cemetery which is so rich in Dennis history and representative of Dennis' unique and illustrious character, and to endorse this important project.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Detailed Project Expense & Photos

SOUTH DENNIS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CEMETERY HEADSTONE REPAIRS 2017

Headstone Repairs - SPOCC	BID ITEM - South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery	Monument Repairs	UNIT	AVG. Monument Repairs	AMOUNT
Lucinda Baker Lot 28	Unearth, repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00
Johathan & Benjamin Crowell Lot 41	(2) Repair fractured headstones & reset, clean lichen growth	2	EA	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
Peter H. Crowell Lot 41	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Olivia Baxter Lot 42	Unearth, repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00
Rosannah Alexander Lot 48	Foundation Repair & Reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$900.00	\$900.00
Reuben H. & Hannah S. Baker Lot 61	Foundation Repair & Reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Bessie K. Baker Lot 113	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Mercy Mother Crowell Lot 123	Foundation repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Capt. Harvey Baker Lot 149 & 167	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Ansel Baxter Lot 174 - son	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Alpheus Baxter Lot 174	Repair fractured foundation & headstone & reset,	1	EA	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00
Iza Etta Farris Lot 200	Reset Headstone, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Samuel & Susan Chase Lot 203	Rebuild foundation & reset headstone, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00
Huldah & Henry F. Baker Lot 204	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
David & Sally Baker Lot 261	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Emeline Baker Lot 216	Foundation Repair & Reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Jerusha Baker Lot 234	Base Repair & Reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Frank E. Baker (son) Lot 237	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
William & Josh Baxter, twins Lot 264	Reset into foundation, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Olive Conant, Adjacent to Lot 368	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$900.00	\$900.00
Zena Bangs Lot 249	Epoxy top name plate to footstone, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Samuel Trott Lot 76	Unearth, repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Hitty Nickerson wife of Scott Last Row	Reset in foundation and epoxy, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Keziah Baker Row 14	Unearth, repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Susan Baker Row 16	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Infant son Baker Lot 145	Reset Headstone, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$500.00	\$500.00
Louisa Farris Lot 182	Epoxy headstone to foundation and reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00
Freeman Gage, Our Baby Lot 243	Upright, Epoxy name plate, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Capt. Gideon Harding Lot 22 & 34	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Jethro & Lucy Baker Lot 145	Unearth, repair fractured headstone & reset	1	EA	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Almon H. Mitchell Lot 35	Unearth, repair fractured headstone & reset into foundation	1	EA	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Gorham Nickerson Lot 235	Upright 2 small headstones, clean lichen growth	2	EA	\$975.00	\$1,950.00
Ruth A. Nickerson Lot 80	Clean, repair fracture, reset headstone into foundation, epoxy	1	EA	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00
Henry Warren Perry Lot 252	Unearth, reset headstone, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Huldah M. Robbins Lot 214	Unearth, repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00
Seth Baker Lot 216	Repair fractured headstone, base & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00
Ansel Baxter Lot 174	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Benjamin Chase Lot 188	Repair fractured headstone, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Daniel Chase Lot 173	Repair fractured foundation & headstone, reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00
Phebe Davis Lot 201	Repair fractured headstone, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Edwin Farris Lot 182	Reset Headstone, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Susan Gideon Harding	Unearth, repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Joseph W. & others Jones Lot 231	Upright 4 small headstones, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Capt. Daniel Kelley Lot 142	Repair fractured headstone & base, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
David & Rebecca Kelley Lot 56	Unearth, repair fractured headstone & reset (2), clean lichen growth	2	EA	\$1,975.00	\$3,950.00
Ide Phillips Lot 155	Reset in base, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,200.00	\$500.00
Eliza Rogers Lot 51	Clean foundation, reset headstone into foundation	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Arumah & Hannah Small Lot 124	Remove, repair fracture foundation, reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Benoni Small Lot 162	Clean lichen off obilisk	1	EA	\$500.00	\$500.00
Ida Small Wife of Alvin Lot 144	Repair fractured foundation & headstone, reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00

SOUTH DENNIS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CEMETERY HEADSTONE REPAIRS 2017

Headstone Repairs - SDCCC	BID ITEM - South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery	Monument Repairs	UNIT	AVG. Monument Repairs	AMOUNT
Lucy Small Lot 206	Repair fractured headstone, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Love & Moses Small Lot 144	Repair fractured foundation & headstone, reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00
Betsy S. Small Lot 145	Repair fractured foundation & headstone, reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Lothrop T. Thacher Lot 36	Repair fractured headstone & reset, clean lichen growth	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Benjamin Nickerson (father) Lot 13	Clean, repair fracture, reset headstone into foundation	1	EA	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Nathan R. (son) Farris Lot 182	Upright, clean	1	EA	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery		59		Repair total	\$80,000.00
Headstone Repairs - WDC	BID Item - West Dennis Cemetery	Monument Repairs	UNIT	AVG. Monument Repairs	AMOUNT
Zenas Kelley Lot 107	Repair fractured headstone & reset	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Wilbur Kelley, Old Parish Grounds	Repair fractured headstone & reset	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Benjamin F. Baker Lot 224	Reset in foundation and expoxy	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Mary Wheldon, Old Parish Grounds	Repair fractured headstone & reset	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Nellie Wheldon Old Parish Grounds	Reset in foundation and expoxy	1	EA	\$750.00	\$750.00
Mary Haffords Lot 39	Repair fractured headstone & reset	1	EA	\$975.00	\$975.00
Robert Studley Lot 61	Reset in foundation and expoxy	1	EA	\$500.00	\$500.00
Temperence Crowell Lot 150	Repair fractured headstone & reset	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Alice Crowell Lot 121	Reset in foundation and expoxy	1	EA	\$675.00	\$675.00
Benjamin C. Sturgess Lot 61	Repair fractured headstone & reset	1	EA	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Julia Ann Crowell Lot 52	Reset in foundation and expoxy	1	EA	\$500.00	\$500.00
West Dennis Cemetery Total		11		Repair Total	\$10,000.00
BID ITEM - Headstone Cleaning SDCCC	Stones	UNIT	AVG. Stone Cleaning	AMOUNT	
Clean 998 headstones	939	EA	\$105.00	\$98,595.00	
Clean 10 double headstones	10	EA	\$52.50	\$525.00	
Clean 696 footstones	696	EA	\$26.25	\$18,270.00	
Clean 57 Monuments	57	EA	\$105.00	\$5,985.00	
Clean 45 Obselisk	45	EA	\$105.00	\$4,725.00	
Clean 1115 LF of granite or concrete borders	1115	LF	\$7.09	\$7,900.00	
S. Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery Total		1	Cleaning Total	\$136,000.00	
			Project Total	\$226,000.00	

South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery

Picture and Repair Description



Baker, E. Frank (son)
Lot 237
South Dennis Cemetery
Repair: Cracked & broken
lichen growth



Baxter, twin brothers William & Josh
Lot 264
South Dennis Cemetery
Repairs: Fallen and
lichen growth



Conant, Olive
Lot: Adjacent to Lot 368 Hall Lot
South Dennis Cemetery
Repairs: Fallen, fractured
and lichen growth



Bangs, Zena
Lot 249
Attach top to footstone, lichen growth



Trott, Samuel
Lot 76
Repairs: Fallen, fractured & lichen growth



Nickerson, Hitty
Old Burial Ground back of church
Repairs: Fallen, fractured & lichen growth

South Dennis Congregational Church Cemetery

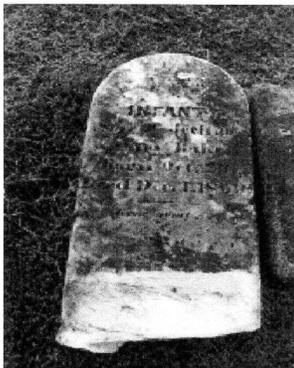
Picture and Repair Description



Baker, Keziah
Row 14
South Dennis Cemetery
Repairs: Fallen, broken
lichen growth



Baker, Susan
Row 16
South Dennis Cemetery
Repairs: Fallen, fractured and
and lichen growth



Baker, Infant Son
of Jethro & Lucy
Lot 145
Repairs: Fallen, fractured and
and lichen growth

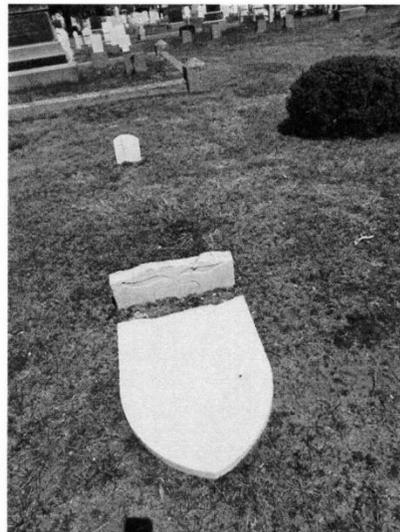


Farris, Louisa Wife of
Nathan B. Farris
Lot 182
Repairs: Fallen, fractured and
and lichen growth

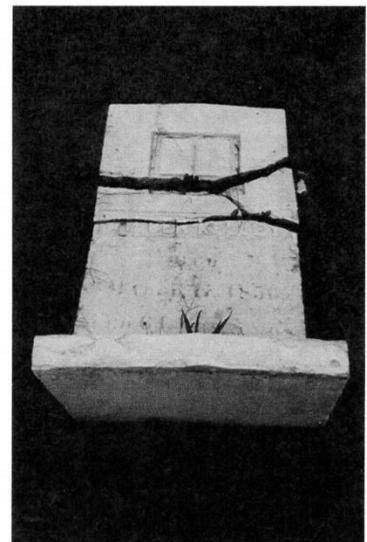
West Dennis Cemetery



L121 Alice Crowell



L150 Temperence Crowell



G 59 Wilbur Kelley



L107 Zenas Kelley



R9G56 Mary Wheldon,

CERTIFICATE OF NON-COLLUSION

The undersigned certifies under penalties of perjury that this Proposal has been made and submitted in good faith and without Collusion or fraud with any other person. As used in this certification, The word "person" shall mean any natural person, business, Partnership, corporation, union, committee, club or other Organization, entity, or group of individuals.



April 27, 2018

Signature

Chair, Cemetery Advisory Committee
Title

Date

APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY:

Name of Organization: Dennis Cemetery Advisory Committee

Address: Dennis Department of Public Works, 120 Theophilus F. Smith Road, South Dennis, MA

Phone Number: 508-760-6220

Email: whiskeyboo@comcast.net

Name & Title: Diane Rochelle, Chair Cemetery Advisory Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Rochelle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Signature: _____