

GRANITE ARCH RESTORATION

COMPLETE

What began in 2005 as a fund raising effort to raise matching funds to repair and restore both the iron gates and the granite archway of the main entrance cemetery gate is now finished! Although the restoration and re-pointing of the granite began in 2009, the original contractor was unable to finish and defaulted on the contract. We reached a financial settlement with the contractor's bonding company. Last year, we were awarded a \$25,000* matching grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects fund. Ken Uracius (a Brookfield resident), and owner of Stone & Lime Imports was the low bidder at \$49,900. He did an excellent job, including repairing the top, and inserted re-cut pieces of granite to fill the large voids in the seams near the top.

In early 2011, the iron gates were repaired and replaced. We also received a MPPF matching grant in the amount of \$17,500 for that part of the restoration.

It is planned to do some final landscaping around the gate, and possibly being able to have it illuminated at night in the future.

Please use an alternative entrance to enter and exit the cemetery rather than the main archway gate. It is very narrow, and not designed for vehicles.

***Tuesday, June 19, 2012**

Brookfield Cemetery to get \$25,000 for granite arch restoration

State Sen. Stephen M. Brewer, D-Barre, and state Rep. Anne M. Gobi, D-Spencer, have announced that the Brookfield Cemetery will receive \$25,000 through the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund for masonry work to restore the granite arch entrance.

“The archway is the largest and most prominent landscape in the cemetery and it is a staple in the Brookfield community,” Mr. Brewer said. “I applaud the hard work and dedication of the members of this community to its restoration and preservation.”

“I am so glad for the residents of Brookfield. This funding will be used to protect the historical integrity of the cemetery and honor the deceased,” Ms. Gobi continued.

“We have been very fortunate to have the support of Senator Brewer, Representative Gobi and the Massachusetts Historical Commission in the long-term preservation efforts that have been going on in the cemetery. This is the second grant they have awarded. Without that funding, we would not have been able to complete this project,” said Peter N. Masuzzo, a member of the Cemetery Commission.

“We are very excited that we were eligible for this grant. The commissioners have put a lot of effort into securing funds and we are looking forward to the arch being restored,” said Michael Seery, superintendent of the Cemetery Commission.

The grant is a matching grant to finish the restoration project started by the community in 2009. In 2012, the community repaired and restored the iron gates of the structure. The archway has been standing since 1863 and repairs will ensure the arch is protected from further damage.

Iron gates latest move in cemetery preservation

BY M. CATHERINE BYSZEK , NEW LEADER CORRESPONDENT
7/29/2011

BROOKFIELD — New iron gates reside at the entrance of the historic Brookfield Cemetery on Route 9, minutes away from many other cultural and historic landmarks in the town of Brookfield. The cemetery was founded nearly 300 years ago in 1719, just one year after the town became officially incorporated and 40 years from its settlement. It is no surprise that Brookfield is home to such a historic landmark that dates back centuries. Brookfield possesses several other historical sectors such as the Brookfield Common Historic District, which includes the area between Howard, Sherman, Prouty, West Main, Main and Upper River streets. In 2003 Brookfield Cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The cemetery has undergone restorations over the last few years, including the installation of the new iron gates last month. The iron gate project was done through the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund. DeAngelis Iron Works of Easton was able to complete the job. Brookfield received three bids for the gate project, according to Cemetery Commissioner Peter Masuzzo. DeAngelis was not only the low bidder, he said, but also highly recommended, as it has done extensive work on historic places in Boston. Masuzzo stated that this has been a joint project with the Brookfield Historic Commission, with commission member Ron Couture the primary contact on this project. The original entrance structure had been donated in 1893 by the Hadens, who happen to be the same family that donated the library. The gates that were replaced were heavily rusted with weak joints and had even been hit by a vehicle in the past. Masuzzo admitted they were in “really bad condition.” This has been a long-term and ongoing project from a plan that was finalized in early 2000. In addition to the things that the Brookfield Cemetery Commission and the Brookfield Historical Commission have already completed, the possibility of r e p a i r i