

Community Preservation Committee Littleton, Massachusetts

The CPC was established by Town Meeting in 2007. The CPC has the powers and responsibilities specified by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44B, section 5(b), the Community Preservation Act.

Community Preservation Application for Funding

Date: 23 December 2024

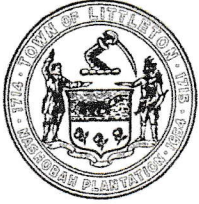
Project Title: Johnathan Whetcomb Officer's Commission
Name of Applicant: Andrea Curran/Susan Fougstedt
Name of Organization: Littleton Historical Society
Address: 4 Rogers St PO Box 721 Littleton, MA 011460
Telephone: 978-486-8202 Email: littleton.histsociety@verizon.net

CPA Category (check all that apply):
Open Space ☐ Historic Preservation ☒
Recreation ☐ Community Housing ☐

CPA Funding Requested: \$ 3910 Total Project Cost: \$ 3910

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

1. **Project Description:** Please give a detailed project description, including specific objectives.
2. **Goals:** How does this project accomplish the goals of the Community Preservation Plan for Littleton? (See Guidelines for Project Submission for general criteria)
3. **Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for all critical milestones? Will this be a multi-year project?
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.
 - b. Additional funding sources. Please include those that are available, committed, or under consideration.
 - c. Describe the basis for your budget and the sources of information you used.



Community Preservation Committee Littleton, Massachusetts

The CPC was established by Town Meeting in 2007. The CPC has the powers and responsibilities specified by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44B, section 5(b), the Community Preservation Act.

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?

Submit this form and accompanying materials to:

Community Preservation Committee
c/o Town Clerk Office
Town Offices
37 Shattuck Street
P.O. Box 1305
Littleton, MA 01460
978-540-2401
townclerk@littletonma.org

Please provide one paper copy as well as an electronic (pdf) file.

Johnathan Whetcomb Officer's Commission – 1739 appoints Johnathan Whetcomb to be ENSIGN of the Foot Company within the Town of Littleton.

Project Description: This 1739 Officer's Commission is extremely brittle and fragmented with several areas that will likely fall off if not preserved. It was previously folded into even sixteenths and has broken along many of the fold lines. The left and right corner sections can be mostly reassembled from fragments. The paper is severely darkened. The recommended conservation treatment by Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) is:

1. Reduce surface soil using dry cleaning techniques
2. If permitted, aqueous treatment, humidity and wash in filtered water or alcohol filtered water bath to clean the paper and reduce staining, discoloration, and acidity
3. Size the paper with gelatin
4. Premend tears and fill losses with toned Japanese paper and wheat starch paste to better facilitate lining.
5. Line the paper for additional support with Japanese paper and wheat starch
6. Humidify and flatten between blotters
7. House in protective polyester sleeve

Also, because of the long-term negative effects on historic objects of exposure to light and air, the use of print reproductions for display and research is recommended. The object will be imaged using a high resolution digital camera with apochromatic macro flat field optics. The light source will be Broncolor electronic flash, providing optimal light quality at minimal total light exposure, following the Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative.

Goals: This project meets the goals of CPC by preserving a rare, historic document relating to a prominent family. The Whitcombs have resided in and contributed to Littleton since the mid-1600's. Many still live among us, as do their houses (the Whitcomb Homestead, where Johnathan lived, has been at 169 Whitcomb Avenue since 1707). Johnathan (1690-1767) was a huge contributor to this town: a farmer, cordwainer, shoemaker, brickmaker and owner of a limestone quarry and kiln. He also served the town as selectman, sealer of leather, hog reeve, and surveyor of highways. The fact that we have his almost 300 year old ~~rare~~ officer commission document from 1739 is pretty miraculous. RARE

Timeline: The project will be completed in 2025, soon after approval is given.

Budget:

Conservation Treatment (see above)	\$3,360
Digital restoration	
Project set-up	250
Preservation file	25
Print reproduction	250
USB Thumb drive	25
Subtotal	\$550
Total Funding request	\$3,910

Provinc
Massachusetts

Captain
in Chief
of the Mass

To

Y virtue of the Power and
granted, to be Captain Ge
for, afore said: I do (by t
Loyalty, Courage and goo
to be

the Country of *Worcester* whereof
You are therefore carefully and diliger
in Leading, Ordering and Exercising said
Soldiers, and to keep them in good Order
their *Design* and your tel
shall from time to time receive from Me
your superiour Officers for His Majesty's
to the Trust reposed in you.

By His Excellency's
Command,

Wm. Vane

Given under
Archobis
GEOR

Jonathan Willcomb gentl^m

Authority, in and by His Majesty's
eral, &c. over this His Majesty's P
etc Presents) reposing especial Tru
Conduct, constitute and appoint
Design of the best Company

in the

Frederick Willcomb

ly to discharge the Duty of *Company*
in Arms, t
er and Discipline: hereby comman
to observe and follow such Ord
or the Commander in Chief for
Service, according to Military Rul

My Hand and Seal at Arms, at Boston
In the *thirteenth* Year of 369
GE the Second. Annoque Domi

IER Esq;

VERNOUR

y's Province

England &c

Greeting.

Royal Commission to Me
rovince of the *Massachusetts*
ist and Confidence in your
You the said *gentl^m*
Wm. Vane
under the Command of
egiment of Militia within
sq; is Colonel.

both inferiour Officers and
iding them to obey you as
rs and Instructions, as you
the Time being, or other
rs and Discipline, pursuant

the *Eleventh* Day of
Reign of His Majesty KING
11, 1737

Wm. Vane

Transcription Whitcomb Officer's Commission (some words missing)

To Jonathan Whetcomb, Gentleman Greeting

By virtue of the Power and Authority, in and by His Majesty's Royal Commission to ME granted, to be Captain General over His Majesty's province of the Massachusetts Bay, aforesaid, I do (by these presents) reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and good Conduct, constitute and appoint You the said Jonathan Whetcomb to be Ensign of the Foot Company within the Town of Littleton Under the command of _____, in the Regiment of Militia within the County of Middlesex, whereof Joseph William Esq. is Colonel.

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Ensign both inferior Officers and in Leading, Ordering and Exercising said company in Arms, them to obey you as Soldiers, and to keep them in good Order and Discipline: hereby commands and instructions, as you their Ensign and your or the Commander in Chief and Discipline, pursuant to the Trust reposed in you.

My Hand and Seal at Arms, at Boston 11th day October 1739

.....

Northeast Document Conservation Center

From it's website:

"Founded in 1973, NEDCC is the first independent conservation laboratory in the nation to specialize exclusively in treating collections made of paper or parchment, such as works of art, photographs, books, documents, maps, and manuscripts. Today, the Center offers conservation treatment, digital imaging, and audio preservation services, as well as preservation training, assessments and consultations, and disaster advice on collections. NEDCC is a trusted resource worldwide for information on the preservation of paper-based and digital collections."