



# 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

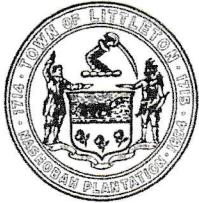
Project Title: Johnathan Whetcomb Officer's Commission  
Name of Applicant: Andrea Curran/Susan Fougstedt  
Name of Organization: Littleton Historical Society  
Address: 4 Rogers St PO Box 721 Littleton, MA 011460  
Telephone: 978-486-8202 Email: [littleton.histsociety@verizon.net](mailto:littleton.histsociety@verizon.net)

**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.



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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](mailto: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 ~~rate~~ 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)	<b>\$3,360</b>
Digital restoration	
Project set-up	250
Preservation file	25
Print reproduction	250
USB Thumb drive	25
Subtotal	<b>\$550</b>
 <b>Total Funding request</b>	 <b>\$3,910</b>

Province  
Massachusetts

Captain  
in Chief  
of the Massa-

To

Y virtue of the Power and  
Granted, to be Captain General, &c over this His Majesty's Pro-  
vince of Massachusetts Bay, aforesaid: I do ( by the  
Authority of the said General Assembly ) hereby command  
Loyalty, Courage and good  
Conduct, constitute and appoint  
Lieutenant General in the  
Army of the said Province, in the  
County of Boston, &c Whereof  
You are therefore carefully and diligently  
in Leading, Ordering and Exercising said  
Soldiers, and to keep them in good Order  
and your self in good Discipline, and  
shall from time to time receive from His  
your Superior Officers for His Majesty's  
to the Trust reposed in you.



IER Efq;  
IER YOUR  
Y3 Province  
Ned-  
England &c  
Greeting.

Royal Commission to Me  
of the Province of the Massachusetts  
and Confidence in your  
You the said *General Assembly*  
under the Command of  
Regiment of Militia within  
Q. is Colonel.

Authority, in and by His Majesty's Pro-  
General, &c over this His Majesty's Pro-  
Presents ) reposing especial Tr-  
Conduct, constitute and appoint  
*Lieutenant General*  
in the  
Army of the said Province, in the  
County of Boston, &c Whereof  
You are therefore carefully and diligently  
in Leading, Ordering and Exercising said  
Soldiers, and to keep them in good Order  
and your self in good Discipline, and  
shall from time to time receive from His  
your Superior Officers for His Majesty's  
to the Trust reposed in you.

Given under  
of Boston  
GEORGE the Second. Annoque Domini

the Eleventh Day of  
Reign of His Majes KING  
A. D. 1733.

By His Excellency's  
Command,  
John Murray

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 11<sup>th</sup> day October 1739

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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."