



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** David Gill , Parks & Recreation Director  
Jill McDaniel, Cemetery Administrator

**DATE:** August 29, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Monument Preservation Team Update

### **Background**

Update on the Department's Monument Perseveration Team.

### **Discussion**

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains and operates approximately 140 acres that encompasses thirteen cemeteries in ten different locations.

The cemetery administration office and Perkins Chapel are located near the entrance to Blossom Hill Cemetery. The Chapel, of Gothic Revival design, was donated to the City by Miss Susan Perkins in 1904 and is listed, along with Blossom Hill and the Old North Cemetery, on the National Historic Register.

### **Preservation Team**

In the FY17 Budget City Council funded two additional 17 week temporary positions which were dedicated to preserving monuments in the Old North Cemetery. The Old North is the oldest cemetery in the City, many of the monuments are over 200 years old. Cemetery employees, who are trained in monument preservation, trained the new temporary staff. During the first year the new team preserved over 160 fallen or leaning slate monuments and 30 fallen, broken or leaning marble monuments

This season the team has focused their work in the Minot Enclosure, which is located within Old North Cemetery. This year we have preserved 128 monuments. Franklin Pierce is buried in this section, and after this preservation project is completed it will be a beautiful place for the hundreds of people who visit each year.

Most of the monuments within this enclosure are of great magnitude, and have had to be disassembled. This involves removing the monuments from their bases and removing the bases. At that point the foundations need to be removed and the ground leveled. Many of the foundations are larger than the monuments themselves, weighing as much as 400 – 500 lbs. The foundations are then reset and the base and monument are reset.

Many of these monuments are heavily soiled from the weather and surrounding trees. The team was been able to clean a large majority of the monuments while in the process of restoration. There are approximately 45 monuments/markers remaining to be preserved and we plane to finish these this fall.

