



Dedham Village Preservation  
ASSOCIATION

# The Old Village Cemetery

Newsletter

June, 2018



Marie-Louise Kehoe, Chair  
Old Village Cemetery Committee

Dear friend of the Old Village Cemetery: it's been a little more than a year since we began the journey that will bring a much needed facelift of the Old Village Cemetery. Although there is a long way to go, we have made encouraging progress toward our goal of \$1-Million, and the three-year project is off to a great start. In this first of what will be periodic newsletters updating you on our progress, we hope to elicit your comments and ideas to help us move toward the re-beautification of one of Dedham's historic gems.

Sincerely,



*The most visible improvement has been the beautiful cleaning and restoration of the monuments.*

## Stone Restoration

The most visible improvement to the Old Village Cemetery, to date, has been the beautiful cleaning and restoration of the monuments by conservators Kevin Duffy and David Ray. The freshly whitened and repaired stones emerging from centuries of grime and erosion have dazzled passers-by. Work has begun anew with the Spring, and will continue until completion.

## Funding Status

The Old Village Cemetery Committee has raised nearly \$250,000 en route to its 3-year goal of \$1-Million for the restoration and endowment of the Cemetery. This has been largely due to the generosity of private donors like Margot Pyle, a former Dedham resident and philanthropist, and long-time supporters of Dedham Community projects, like Dedham Savings and the Norfolk and Dedham Group. Funds raised thus far have made it possible to commence early this Spring with major landscaping, and continuing stone and site restoration. The OVC Committee is hoping to raise an additional \$250,000 in 2018, which will allow work to continue on stone restoration, landscaping, and ironwork around the gravesites and the perimeter of the Cemetery.



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## Gatherings

Marie-Louise Kehoe, Chairman of the Old Village Cemetery Committee, has held three informative gatherings of potential supporters at her home, and Peter Reynolds sponsored a presentation at the Blue Bunny in Dedham Center. Attendees viewed Jim Bride's moving film about the plight of the Cemetery and the plans to restore it. More fund raising gatherings will be held throughout 2018.



*Attendees of the Committee's informative gatherings viewed Jim Bride's film about the plight of the Cemetery and the plans to restore it. You can find the film online at [oldvillagecemetery.org](http://oldvillagecemetery.org).*

## Halvorson Design



*Pictured l-r: Ricardo Austrich, ASLA, team leader for Halvorson Design Partnership, Marie-Louise Kehoe, Chairman of the Renovation Committee, Vesna Maneva, Halvorson Associate; and Joseph Flanagan, Director of the Dedham DPW*

The Committee, in consultation with Joe Flanagan, Dedham DPW Director, has selected the prestigious Boston landscape architectural firm, Halvorson Design Partnership, to undertake a 3-year cemetery landscape improvement plan for the Old Village Cemetery. Halvorson has extensive experience in cemetery restoration, having designed the Master Plan for Mount Auburn Cemetery in the mid-90's, and is currently working locally with the City of Quincy and the Town of Plymouth, and a national list of clients. Ricardo Austrich, ASLA, is the team leader for Halvorson, with the able assistance of Associate, Vesna Maneva.



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## The Running of the Ghouls

In the fall, appropriately around Halloween, the Old Village Cemetery will sponsor a Run/walk marathon for all ages starting and ending on the Cemetery grounds. Participants will be encouraged to wear appropriate Halloween attire, and there will be prizes, refreshments, and rides. Please come and join us. Date and time will be announced in plenty of time to start getting into shape.

## Signs

Through the efforts of Stanton Lyman, Chairman of the Dedham Historic District Commission, and Peter Damon, Old Village Cemetery Committee member, a handsome bronze plaque has been installed at the Village Avenue entrance of the Old Village Cemetery commemorating its 2006 listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Cemetery is now officially recognized by the Federal Government as one of the Nation's most significant historic sites.

Please help us stay on schedule and meet our funding goal for the coming year. We hope that you will consider a donation to the Dedham Village Preservation Association, Inc., a registered 501(c)3, on behalf of the Cemetery restoration.

Thank you and we welcome your comments.  
For donations and more information, consult our website at [www.oldvillagecemetery.org](http://www.oldvillagecemetery.org)