



MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

**City of Northampton
Office of the Mayor
210 Main Street Room 12
Northampton, MA 01060-3199
(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275D
mayor@northamptonma.gov**

For Immediate Release – December 4, 2020

Fence Replacement at Historic Bridge Street Cemetery To Begin Next Week Thanks To Anonymous Donor

NORTHAMPTON - Today, the City of Northampton announced that a long awaited fence replacement at the historic Bridge Street Cemetery will begin next week, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who contributed \$88,955 toward the \$114,955 project.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has signed a construction contract to remove an approximately 900 linear foot section of the existing chain link fence that runs along Bridge Street and a portion of Parsons Street and replace it with a more historically appropriate tubular steel fence. The project will also replace the historic entrance gates on Parsons Street and Bridge Street.

The phased replacement of the Bridge Street Cemetery fence was one of several historic restoration recommendations contained in a 2016 Preservation Master Plan for the city's oldest cemetery established in 1661. Because the existing fence was neither original nor historic, it was deemed ineligible for both state and local historic preservation grant funding. That's when a generous city resident who wished to remain anonymous contacted DPW Director Donna LaScaleia and offered to contribute over 75% of the cost of the first and most visible phase of the fence replacement project.

"On behalf of the residents of Northampton, I extend sincere thanks and gratitude to an amazing benefactor of Bridge Street Cemetery whose generosity is exceeded only by their humility in wanting to remain anonymous," said Mayor David Narkewicz. "Bridge Street Cemetery is one of our city's historic jewels and this beautiful new fence and gates will not only enhance the cemetery grounds, but also beautify an important entryway to downtown Northampton."

The new fence and gates were designed by local Landscape Architect Martha Lyon. The project will be constructed by Hastie Fence of Agawam, and work is expected to be ongoing throughout the month of December.

For more information, please contact the Mayor's Office at mayor@northamptonma.gov or 413-587-1249.