

MINUTES

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

JUNE 2, 2014

Present: Richard Olson, Chairman, Greg Howe, Mark Collins, Jim Cox and Susan Avellar.

Absent: Charles Westcott.

Also Attending: Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk and Tony Lemme, Cemetery Superintendent.

1. Minutes: The Minutes for the May 5th 2014 meeting were approved with corrections indicated.
2. Approval of Cemetery Plot Sales: Our Town Clerk presented no sales of lots to be approved.
3. Alden Street Cemetery, including the needs of Hamilton and Gifford: The Chairman circulated the new MCC report on work needed at the Gifford Cemetery, which identifies 67 at-risk or fallen stones and estimates preservation costs at approximately \$25,000. This work will need to be the subject of a grant application to the Community Preservation Committee, due to be filed by November 1st. The Chairman suggested that we include requests for funding of MCC's completion of their study of preservation needs at the Hamilton Cemetery and a study of needs at Alden Street Cemetery Old Section. There was a consensus to go forward on this basis. Mr. Howe expressed a concern that the previously approved CPA grant for Phases 3 and 4 at Winthrop Street Cemetery might not prove sufficient. Noted that the \$30,000 grant approved for Phase 5 (signage) will also be available to make up short-falls on Phases 3 and 4.
4. Columbarium Area: The problems of Buildings and Grounds facilities, parking and activities increasingly impinging on the Cemetery area set aside for interment of cremated remains, was broadly discussed. Mr. Lemme described the history and development of this problem as the Town's inability to reach conclusions on the siting of Police and DPW facilities has continued.

A look at the map of the property makes it appear that there is space on the other side of the shed to move the parking and sand-piling, but apparently the topography drops off so sharply as to make this solution impractical.

No question that we want an on-site facility that accommodates our

Superintendent and equipment needed for Cemetery purposes. Mr. Howe and others noted that Mr. Lemme ought to have an even more pleasant place to meet members of the public, even including heat and toilet facilities, and ideally not housed in a corrugated iron shed.

Doug Johnstone suggested the Jerome Smith parking lot as at least a temporary alternative for parking B & G and other DPW machinery and workers vehicles. Then there is that dirt pile.

We will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen on June 9 at 6:00pm. to ask their help finding a solution, with Tony Lemme and Doug Johnstone to help us lay out the problem.

Further, regarding Alden Street Cemetery problems, Mr. Lemme undertook to study and report on the need for railings and signage to prevent vehicles driving on burial spaces, particularly at corners. Jim Cox did caution as to the turning needs for hearses.

5. Winthrop Street Cemetery Restoration Project: It was reported that our Grant administrator is working up the re-bidding process for phases 3 & 4. We might proceed with Phase 5 (signage) for which we already have the CPC grant.
6. Cemetery Finances: The Chairman circulated financial statements as of April 30.
7. Standish Avenue foot-path and gully: Mr. Lemme reported that he is making this an immediate priority for signage, fencing off and filling. Ms Avellar observed that the pedestrian access from Duarte Motors is the main problem, and Mr. Lemme said he will be getting together with Ray Duarte on this subject.
8. Status of above-ground interment: We are awaiting Town Counsel's advice regarding potential liability, and noted that we should have required a performance bond to be posted.
9. Other Business: The Chairman reported on a conversation he had with Napi Van Dereck, who urged we create an informative brochure relating to artists, literary figures and other colorful and interesting persons interred in our Town Cemeteries. (Subsequent development – a check for \$5,000 received from Napi to be devoted to the project.)
10. Next Meetings: We are scheduled for a special meeting with the Board of Selectmen, concerning the DPW facility on Cemetery property, at their 6pm. meeting on June 9.

Our regular meeting will be on July 7, 2014 at 4:30pm. (Note later hour.)

The meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Richard B. Olson
Chairman and Secretary pro tem.