

MINUTES

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

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

Absent: Susan Avellar.

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

The Meeting convened at 2:00 pm.

1. Minutes: The minutes for the August 4, 2014 meeting were approved.
2. Approval of Cemetery Plot Sales: There were no plot sales to approve.
- 3(a). Gifford and Hamilton Cemeteries: The MCC needs assessment for the Hamilton Cemetery has been received and was circulated. MCC's estimate of the cost of needed preservation work is \$34,00, more than first guessed, and so our grant application to the CPC will increase. A draft of that application was distributed, and is attached
- 3(b). Alden Street Cemetery: Tony Lemme suggested we skip the discussion of railings and signage for now and concentrate on the more urgent issue of agenda item 7.
4. Columbarium Improvement: DPW's Rich Waldo has stated that they will be out of the adjacent space by or during 2016, leaving only the shed and parking necessary for cemetery maintenance. We say that is not soon enough to provide decent screening between DPW activities and the interment area for cremated remains. Tony Lemme suggested that if we would, temporarily, allow parking for one (or two) vehicles among stones nearby, it would free up enough space to put in the proposed tree barrier. It was voted to grant such permission, and to appropriate up to \$3,000 from the Expendable Portion of the Perpetual Care Trust Fund for the planting of 6 to 9 Cyprus trees as needed for the purpose, with perhaps a temporary split-rail or lattice-work fence to demark the separation until the trees are in place and sufficiently grown. Mark Collins will pursue implementation of this project.
5. Winthrop Street Cemetery Restoration Project: Reported that the Steering Committee, consisting of our Commission's Messrs. Howe and Olson and representatives of the Historical, Conservation and Disabilities Commissions would be meeting the following day to interview two of the proposers to do

design work for projects 3, 4 and 5. Of the four original proposers, Martha Lyon had withdrawn and KLA had already been eliminated by the Steering Committee. (That meeting in fact took place, and both Elmore Design Collaborative and RDLA: Ray Dunetz Landscape Architecture, Inc., made excellent impressions. We decided that we would each advise Michelle Jarusiewicz, Grant Administrator, of our ratings, A and B, or toss-up before the price proposals are unsealed.)

6. Cemetery Finances: No current report available from Director of Municipal Finance.
7. Standish Street Footpath Problem: Tony Lemme insisted that this must be pursued, due to the rainwater run-off and consequent rutting problem (which may endanger tilted stones, yet DPW wants to put it on hold. The Chairman promised to pursue this with Rich Waldo and David Gardner. He also suggested regularizing the footpath, since barricades have failed, but Mr. Lemme thought this would not work. (Subsequently, I have spoken with MCC's Irving Slavid who said that while doing the needs assessments at Hamilton and Gifford Cemeteries he observed many people walking the footpath to view those historic places and not merely to use it as a short-cut. Also, the Steering Committee (referred to in item 5) was shown examples of quite attractive, water permeable materials to be laid down on pathways instead of paving - so maybe we should consider simply formalizing the pathway.)
8. Status of above-ground interment: Doug Johnstone reported that the interment is going forward.
9. Informational Brochure: Reported progressing.
10. Other Business: Mark Collins reported that he will soon need to resign, due to a change in his primary residency. Greatly regretted. Urgent we find a replacement.
11. Next regular meeting: Set for Monday, October 6, 2014 at 2:00 pm.

The Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard B. Olson,
Chairman, and Secretary pro tem.