

DRAFT MINUTES

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

MAY 5, 2014

Present: Richard Olson, Chairman, Greg Howe, Ann Wood and Jim Cox.

Absent: Charles Westcott and Mark Collins.

Also Attending: Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk, and Rich Waldo, DPW Director. ✓

1. Minutes : The minutes for the March 3, 2014 meeting were approved with with the corrections indicated.
2. Approval of Cemetery Plot Sales: Our Town Clerk presented two sales of double lots to be approved, as they duly were.
3. Alden Street Cemetery, including the needs of Hamilton and Gifford: The Chair reported that the MCC study of fallen and at risk stones at the Gifford section is underway. (The MCC study has subsequently been received and a copy of the cover letter is attached with these minutes). Discussion of railings and signage along roadways was postponed in the absence of Tony Lemme, Cemetery Superintendent.
4. Columbarium: As the Commission has already decided to go forward by the improvement of the existing section for below-ground interment of cremated remains, and to screen it from the intrusive proximity of DPW facilities and parking, the Commission welcomed the attendance of DPW Director Rich Waldo. ✓

Mr. Waldo noted that the commission is invited to meet with the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on May 27. He further noted that the future of DPW facilities is in the shadow of uncertainty concerning the future of a Police Station facility, for which a preliminary design proposal should be available for fall Town Meeting.

Ms. Wood expressed outrage, and our need to move forward on the need for respectful, non-intrusive surroundings for this site. Doug Johnstone concurred, saying the Selectmen should be made mindful of this need to make Cemetery uses paramount over DPW's growing need to use the site.

Mr. Olson did make note that we are, however, grateful for the presence of DPW facilities, equipment and personnel who serve the needs of our well maintained Cemetery properties.

Mr. Waldo was entirely understanding of the concerns expressed, <sup>and</sup> all seemed in agreement that any disrespect must be eliminated from these premises, regardless of the Town's pushing and shoving over DPW versus Police facilities or the fact that we are simultaneously searching for a new Town Manager and Police Chief.

Mr. Waldo also mentioned that he wants to sub-contract cemetery ground maintenance work, and Mr. Howe said any such arrangement should include on-going maintenance at Winthrop Street.

Doug Johnstone mentioned that St. Peter's sometimes needs ground maintenance assistance, and Mr. Waldo replied that we do willingly help out.

5. Winthrop Street Cemetery Restoration Project: No bids for the design work for Phases 3 and 4 having been received, the Commission approved Grant Administrator Michelle Jarusiewicz's proposal for re-advertising the project. It was noted that ATM in April approved \$30,000 for Phase 5, which expressly includes funds to meet any shortfall in the funds available for Phases 3 and 4. *See attached memo from Michelle.*

Fund raising for the smallpox victims memorial continues sluggishly. \$250 received from New England Deaconess Association.

6. Cemetery Finances : Report attached.
7. Doggy Bag Questions: Report attached.
8. Standish Street Footpath Problem: Discussion deferred in the absence of Tony Lemme.
9. Lot Purchase Eligibility: Prior amendment to Rules and Regs, deemed sufficient.
10. Other Business: Reported that the Earl Kendall above-ground burial is still incomplete, with elements exposed and the whole matter in litigation. Concerns expressed for the Town's liability in case of some accident. Doug Johnstone will draft a request for an opinion of Town Counsel.

The Commission expressed regret at the departure of member Ann Wood for other pastures. It appears, however, that we will have a successor to welcome in Susan Avellar.

11. Next Meetings: We are scheduled for a special meeting with the Board of Selectmen, concerning the DPW facility on Cemetery property, at their 6:00p.m. meeting May 27.

Our next regular meeting will be on June 2, 2014 at 2:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Richard B. Olson  
Chairman and Secretary pro tem.