

MINUTES
PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
JANUARY 5, 2017

Present: Richard Olson (Chairman), Kurt Reynolds, Jack Kiefer,
Mike Harpie and Ruth Anne Cowing.

Absent: Susan Avellar. (Excused)

Also Present: Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk, and Ruth Dutra.

The meeting convened at 3:05pm., and new member Michael Harpie was welcomed.

1. Minutes: The minutes for the December 8, 2016 meeting were approved as presented.
2. Cemetery Plot Sales: There was one sale of a single lot which was approved.
3. Winthrop Street Cemetery Restoration. Phases 3, 4 and 5: Work has begun by the contractor, and so have the issues raised by abutters and other observers, all of whom care deeply for the history and tradition that we are endeavoring to preserve and enhance.

Concerns include the contractor's use of heavy equipment such as bulldozers, tractors and backhoes, with the potential for damage to the fragile ground and ancient monuments; piles of debris left on adjacent properties, as well as on the Cemetery itself, together with

equipment over weekends; and at least one headstone that seems already to be broken.

Minutes
Provincetown Cemetery Commission
January 5, 2017

Page 2

Over-all there is the appearance of lack of supervision, and Doug Johnstone undertook to e-mail DPW's Eric Larsen on the whole subject, and the Chairman will follow up by phone. (Copy of Eric's response to Doug is attached.)

4. Gifford and Hamilton Cemeteries: Invitations for Bids for monument conservation will go out in early spring.
5. Alden Street Cemetery Old Section: Invitations for Bids for Priority 1 and Priority 2 monument conservation should also go out in the spring.

For Priority 3 and Priority 4 we filed a CPC grant application for \$102,000 in December, with an allowance that it might be spread over two years.

6. Alden Street New Sections (s): Nothing to report upon.
7. Cemetery Finances: The Town has a newly appointed Director of Municipal Finance, Josee Young. A report as of 10/31/16 is included with these minutes, and monthly reports should soon be resumed.

8. Brochure: We are ever closer to printing at least the first 2,500 copies. (Subsequent development – the VSB has not approved our requested \$1,8000 grant to print an additional 2,500.)

Minutes
Provincetown Cemetery Commission
January 5, 2017

Page 3

There was a discussion of putting a price tag or a suggested donation on copies printed in the future.

9. Funeral Home Requests: The Chairman reported that he had talked to Jim Cox about a letter that Jim was to draft outlining what services the B & G Department might and might not be able to provide, if needed, at burial services.

Jim has responded, that, upon reflection, he had concluded that it would be best not to “open this can of worms” in the first place. The Chairman, therefore, will talk directly with Cemetery Superintendent Tony Lemme about what assistance can be provided, if necessary, and, also to Jim Keefe at the Gately Funeral Home. Doug Johnstone will be able to provide co-ordination, if needed, when issuing burial permits.

10. Other Business: A warm welcome was extended to our newest member, Michael Harpie.

The Chairman circulated a draft report of the Cemetery Commission to be included in the 2016 Annual Town Report, for any comment.

11. Next Meeting: Set for Thursday, February 5, 2017, at 3:00pm.

Minutes
Provincetown Cemetery Commission
January 5, 2017

Page 4

The meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Olson
Chairman