

Minutes
Provincetown Cemetery Commission
February 2, 2017

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Tom Steele, representing the American Legion and, by
proxy, the VFW.

The meeting convened at 3:05pm.

1. Minutes: The minutes for the January 5th. 2017 meeting were approved.
11. VFW Request re: Flagpole at Winthrop Street Cemetery: (Taken out of sequence.) Mr. Tom Steele made a presentation for the appropriateness of placing a pole for the display the American flag at the Winthrop Street Cemetery, given the burials there of at least seven veterans of the American Revolution and five veterans of the Civil War.

Mr. Steele reported that the Legion has offered a donation of \$350 for such a project and that the VFW would also contribute.

Discussion included placement, with consensus that it should be either at the Browne Street entrance along Winthrop Street or at the entrance where Winthrop Street meets with Court Street – and

not up on the hill.

Consensus also that there should be a modest (bronze?) plaque set in a low granite base setting forth the names of the war veterans commemorated. Also, the informational signage planned as part of the Winthrop Street preservation project should include the appropriate references.

Further discussion included flagpole details such as height (modest), material (fiberglass? of pole at Pilgrim Park), internal halyards?, etc.).

Mike Harpie volunteered that has contacts with persons in the flagpole and monument business and would gladly investigate further, including consultation with our Town's B&G people and the Historical Commission, (who, must, or, at least, had better be consulted.) This offer was gratefully accepted by the Commission, and Mike will also work with the veteran's organizations on on details and financing. On a motion by Susan Avellar, it was

VOTED: To accept the generous donation of funds for a flagpole and a plaque to be placed at the Winthrop Street Cemetery honoring Provincetown men who served in the American Revolutionary War and in the Civil War, with our thanks to the American Legion and The Veterans of Foreign Wars.

2. Cemetery Plot Sales: One sale of a double plot was approved.
3. Winthrop Street Cemetery Restoration: There continue to be complaints and concerns about the contractor's performance, including those expressed by Tom Steele at this meeting. Heavy equipment being used, posing risks to fragile monuments, and being left on site during the winter weather suspension of work, and mounds of dirt left about and then to create disturbance until the spring (including the immediate vicinity of the Smallpox Memorial) are troubling in the extreme.

The Chairman noted that the contract entered into by the DPW both permits the use of some light mechanical equipment and assigns responsibility for supervision to DPW's Eric Larsen as "Project Manager". The contractor is responsible for any damages inflicted.

The Chairman undertook to investigate the situation as it now stands, and to consult with the Landscape Architects, RDLA.

4. Gifford & Hamilton Cemeteries: Nothing to report.
5. Alden Street Old Section: Nothing to report.
6. Alden Street New Section (s): Nothing to report.
7. Cemetery Finances: Nothing to report.
8. Cemetery Brochure: Noted that we would appreciate donations up to \$1,800 to pay for the printing of an additional 2,500 copies in the first run. VSB turned us down for a grant, but Susan Avellar

will proposition the Chamber of Commerce and Richard Olson will approach the Historical Commission, who have prospered greatly on sales of the book Building Provincetown.

9. Funeral Home Requests: The Chairman renewed his undertaking to consult with both Cemetery Superintendent Tony Lemme and Jim Keefe of Gately Funeral Home as to what assistance at burial services B&G personnel might be able to provide in the event of special needs.
10. Other Business: Kurt Reynolds reported that he had observed nothing inappropriate or disrespectful on the final “Ghost Tour” of the season.

Ruth Anne Cowing circulated some photos illustrating problems with work being carried out at Winthrop Street including one of a gravestone apparently run over by machinery.

11. (Taken out of sequence at start of meeting.)
12. Next Meeting: Set for Thursday, March 2nd, 2017, at 3:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Olson
Chairman.

