

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 28th, 2018

PRESENT: Mike Harpie, Susan Avellar, Lynne Martin
Also present was Dawn Walsh who has applied to be our latest member.
Special Guest Amy McGuiggan

Absent: Kurt Reynolds, RuthAnne Cowing, Jack Kiefer

Meeting convened at 3:07pm

1. The minutes of the November 9th, 2017 meeting were approved.
2. Cemetery Plot Sales: There were a total of (2) cemetery plot sales approved.
3. Membership: Jack Kiefer and RuthAnne Cowing have decided not to seek to renew their terms on the Commission. We thank them both for their work and dedication during their respective terms. Their presences will be missed and sincere appreciation is extended to the both of them. Lynne Martin has been accepted as the newest member of the Cemetery Commission. She has already dedicated a lot of time and expertise in helping to document and "computerize" records of people buried in our cemeteries as well as working with Amy McGuiggan and others in putting together the wonderful Cemetery Booklet that Richard Olson inspired. She will be a great asset.
4. Winthrop Street Cemetery Project: The project is essentially finished and the DPW assures us that the cemetery will be in great shape prior to Patriot's Day. With the exception of some punch list items that the DPW have agreed to do (which were originally the responsibility of the contractor), most everything is complete. There still may be bolts to be cut/removed from the back of one existing sign, some landscaping work at an intersection of paths to prevent erosion and help better define and prevent people from walking on top of gravestones, removal of the pressure treated trail markers which we have deemed inappropriate and useless in defining the trails. The MOTHER stone has not been located and Steve Wlodkowski will continue to locate it. We have made it as clear as possible that we would like the contractor to be back charged, but it will be up to the DPW to determine if that will be done. I asked if it is done, if there was a chance to get some of the money returned to the Cemetery Gift Fund.
5. Gifford and Hamilton Cemeteries: Michelle Jarusiewicz stated in an email that the bid would go out in December, 2017 specifying that the work must not begin until the weather permits in the Spring of 2018. She was hopeful that this might allow the successful bidder to get us on their schedule early before they got a lot of other work. The bid has still not gone out and this is very, very frustrating. The condition of the stones have deteriorated further and our assumption is that the costs to restore them has risen, as well. Michelle has stated that the bid should go out this week.
6. Alden Street Cemetery –Old and New Sections: Richard Olson suggested that I fill out a Grant Application prior to December 21st. I spoke with Michelle and she suggested that as The

Cemetery Commission already has several applications outstanding that we should hold off on applying for another grant at this time. Michelle also assures me that we will not be penalized by not applying at this time and our chances of obtaining future grant money will be the same for subsequent years.

7. Cemetery Finances: We received a generous donation from John Archibald of Nantucket, MA after Richard Olson's heartfelt Memorial Service at the UU Church. We handed out Cemetery Booklets as a remembrance of Richard to all those who attended. Ongoing ways to sell the remaining booklets would be a great way to increase the money in our Gift Fund. Although we made a very generous offer to Provincetown 400 to purchase some booklets below our cost, as the booklets are phenomenal historical documents of our past and would tie into many tourism venues, especially with the 400th Anniversary, in 2020, they declined.
8. Revolutionary War Memorials: The Bronze Plaques were on display on Saturday, November, 11th during the Veteran's Day Service at Town Hall. Amy McGuiggan was present with the plaques and some handouts and she was addressed in the ceremony. We continue to thank her for her dedication and support of our cemeteries. Jack Kiefer of the Cemetery Commission was also present and provided great help.
As Patriot's Day is drawing close, we discussed several possibilities for a creating an appropriate and respectful Dedication Ceremony in the cemetery on that day. Amy has been responsible for incredible and informative articles in the Cape Cod Times and the Banner. We are continuing to get acknowledgements from speakers and organizations to participate in the ceremony. At our next meeting, it is our hope to confirm all and have a solid plan. Many of those who will participate have been invited to the meeting.
9. Other Business: Our priority is focused on Patriot's Day at present, so other business will be addressed beginning in May, 2018.
10. Next Meeting: ...Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 14th @ 3:00PM (as our March 7th meeting was cancelled).

The meeting adjourned @4:50PM.

Respectfully,

Michael Harpie
Cemetery Commission, Chair