

MINUTES

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

APRIL 4th, 2018

Present: Michael Harpie (Chairman), Lynne Martin, Dawn Walsh, Susan Avellar

Absent: Kurt Reynolds

Guests: Jim Keefe, Knights of Columbus; Wor. Myles Mackay, King Hiram's Masonic Lodge, Paul Mendes, VFW; Dr. Cheryl Andrews, Chairman, Board of Selectmen

The Meeting convened at 3:17 pm.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the March 14th, 2018 meeting were approved.
2. Cemetery Plot Sales: We approved the buyback of one cemetery plot # A193 in the Alden St. Cemetery, Section A. The Town Clerk has received all paperwork from the initial buyers, Deborah Heller and Ann Sanders, and will follow up with necessary steps to make this plot available for sale, once again.
3. Patriots' Day Revolutionary War Soldier's and Patriot's Dedication – The bulk of our meeting was a discussion of finalizing the plans for the upcoming ceremony on April 16th. Most everyone has been extremely cooperative and generous in their willingness to make this ceremony a success. The Provincetown Police Honor Guard and Provincetown USCG Honor Guard have generously agreed to participate. If we need a Police Officer to direct traffic, Chief Golden has assured us that we may have one. Dr. Cheryl Andrews has agreed to speak, present and read a Proclamation from the Town. Jim Keefe has been enormously helpful with coordinating, contacting, and lining up participants. He will also provide chairs, a portable sound system, and has purchased a recorded bugle system that will play Taps while SK 2 Jason Chilson, USCG simulates playing it at the ceremony. Both Jim Keefe, Knights of Columbus and Wor. Myles Mackay, King Hiram's Masonic Lodge are doing their best to work with Amy Whorf McGuiggan to give very generous donations to offset the costs of the granite/bronze markers. A discussion was held stating that both organizations pledged to donate, if provided with the name of the charitable organization in

which to write their respective check to. They are unable to write their donation checks to individuals or directly to companies (like Cape Cod Stone) who are NOT charitable organizations. The Masonic Lodge has generously committed to participate in the ceremony, in full Masonic dress, (which they needed to obtain permission to do) and will also provide and set up chairs for guests. Paul Mendes of the VFW has lined up parking on the corner of Shank Painter and Court Street with Chuck Silva, owner of the property. He has arranged for schoolchildren dressed in period costumes to assist and hand out programs. He has also asked Mike Trovato, Fire Chief if we could use the Fire Station for a portion of the ceremony if the weather isn't cooperative. Chief Trovato has graciously agreed to have the fire trucks out of the bays that morning, should we need to use their space. Tomas Steele, Commander, American Legion and Tom Oskowski, Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars will be in charge of the military portion of the ceremony. We will meet in the cemetery to go over all details. Both Commanders have been very helpful in their efforts and expertise in coordinating their portion of the ceremony with the other organizations. Tom Oskowski's daughter, Chloe-Marie will lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Denise Russell will sing the National Anthem. Rev. Kate Wilkinson will deliver the closing prayer. The DPW will have the cemetery looking great and will have a new US Flag on the flagpole. Steve Wlodkowski and Tony Lemme will upright two fallen gravestones, one of which belongs to Revolutionary War Soldier, Alexander Gross, who will be honored on the ceremony. Amy Whorf McGuiggan will be one of the featured guest speakers. She has also lined up others including members of the DAR and SAR who will speak and the Yarmouth Minutemen and Wareham Minutemen and Militia Companies will participate dressed in period costumes in the military portion of the program. Thanks to all of them, as well as Cape Cod Memorials and Classic Bronze Resources. I will open the ceremony with welcoming remarks and introduce the speakers. The members of the Cemetery Commission will assist with all remaining details on the morning of the ceremony. Everyone is asked to arrive by 10:00am.

As we have not received the final program from Amy Whorf McGuiggan yet, there will be many more who will be participating and many more to thank and acknowledge. We are told that State Representative Sarah Peake and Julian Cyr may not be available.

Several of us will meet in the cemetery @ 5:05 PM after today's meeting to discuss some of the logistics of the program.

4. Gifford and Hamilton Cemeteries: Michelle Jarusiewicz stated that the bid would go out for a May 3rd Bid Opening. We have waited over a year and a half for this bid to go out. Thank you, Michelle.

5. Alden Street Cemetery, Old Section - Will eventually go out to bid following the Gifford and Hamilton Cemetery Bid.

6. Alden Street Cemetery, New Section – Not discussed at our meeting, but to reiterate: No current issues. When the project proceeds with the Gifford and Hamilton Cemeteries, I will try to incorporate some new signage (no dogs, mopeds, cemetery hours, etc.) as the existing signs are in need of replacement. We will also ask the DPW to re-install a granite post near the intersection of Standish Ave. to prevent vehicles from driving through the cemetery and possible driving over graves if there is two way traffic.

7. Cemetery Finances: No changes to finances. We will discuss ways to increase this fund in future meetings.

8. Date of next regular meeting: Set for Wednesday, May 2nd, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Harpie, Chairman