

## Michael Harpie

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**To:** rdunetz@gmail.com; Michelle Jarusiewicz; Richard Waldo; Doug Johnstone; Ruth Anne Cowing  
**Subject:** SUMMARY OF 5/24/2017 MEETING @ WINTHROP STREET CEMETERY

05/31/2017

(PLEASE NOTE: All other members of the Cemetery Commission have been mailed this summary, as I did not have their email addresses handy.)

Here is a summary of the meeting that took place at the Winthrop Street Cemetery in which we discussed our concerns and punch list items regarding the project.

Present: Architect, Ray Dunetz; DPW Director, Richard Waldo; Supervisor, Brian Cowing; Grant Administrator, Michelle Jarusiewicz; Cemetery Commission members - Mike Harpie, Kurt Reynolds, Jack Kiefer, Ruth Anne Cowing

In Regards to our Punch List items:

### SMALLPOX MEMORIAL

We discussed the damage to the memorial and the events/decisions that took place on site which lead to relocating it. The Architect, DPW Director, and Grant Administrator concluded that it would not be advisable to back charge the contractor. As the damage is minimal, the Cemetery Commission agreed. The Cemetery Commission expressed its concern about the possibility of the memorial shifting over time, as it was raised and not reinstalled by a professional monument company.

The grade surrounding the main walking path was raised substantially in order to be ADA compliant. ADA compliancy seemed to drive the project and was the reason for relocating the path and raising the grade. The decisions to raise the memorial, rotate the top of it 180 degrees, and locate the path on the opposite side of it, were all made on site, apparently with the DPW's approval. The Cemetery Commission expressed its regret at not being included in those decisions as our (already) printed maps of the cemetery depict the memorial's location incorrectly, on the opposite side of the new path.

### BENCHES

The benches will be fastened to the new concrete pads by drilling the concrete and attaching bolts with appropriate, weatherproof epoxy, according to the Architect and DPW Director. Both assured the Cemetery Commission that this would achieve a permanent and secure installation. The Architect expressed concerns that the benches had not been installed yet and also mentioned that new trail markers will be installed when the contractor returns to complete the project.

### GRADING/COVERED (MISSING) MARKERS

The reason for the grade being raised is addressed above. The Cemetery Commission gave a photograph of the missing marker stone in scripted "MOTHER" to the Architect and to Brian Cowing. We, again, expressed our dismay with the contractor for burying this marker (and possibly others), seemingly with no regard for the deceased. We were assured by the Architect and DPW that every attempt to locate the marker and return it to the surface of the ground where it belongs, will be made. The Cemetery Commission requests that they be informed and shown the stone when it has been found.

The Architect agreed that the pathway intersection, just off the main walkway, was not properly landscaped by the contractor. The DPW again stepped up to the plate and will properly landscape the area to define the presence of the stones and add topsoil to the washed out area around them to prevent further erosion. Susan Aveliar, although not present at the meeting, has been active in speaking with the DPW about the details. Thank you, Susan!

## SECONDARY WALKWAYS

Although these walkways lead people directly over gravestones and there are old, broken tips of stones that are in the center of these paths, we were told by the Architect and by Michelle Jarusiewicz that rerouting these paths was not part of the contract, and therefore the paths will remain as they are. If future renovations are done to the cemetery, my suggestion would be to thoughtfully and respectfully relocate these paths at that time, to deter visitors from walking on top of graves.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

Rich Waldo and the DPW will install one of the 20ft. flagpoles (from the old VFW) at the Winthrop St. Cemetery, as mentioned in the last Cemetery Commission Meeting. The DPW will also provide labor to install the granite post mounted plaque, provided by the VFW. Just to be clear: The VFW will provide the granite post and bronze plaque. The DPW will do the installation. Mike Harpie from the Cemetery Commission will stake the locations on site for both the flagpole and the granite post, and confirm with Rich Waldo.

Rich Waldo has also agreed to install the second 20ft. flagpole (from the old VFW) in the Alden St. Cemetery at a future date. (To replace the old steel flagpole on the hill.)

The Architect stated that the contract included a full stand of grass in the areas of the cemetery which the contractor has added topsoil and which has been reseeded. He indicated that the contractor is responsible for reseeding and watering these areas until the grass has filled in.

The Architect asked Rich Waldo to remove some old rusted bolts still attached to the back of the sign inside the cemetery at the Court St. entrance. Rich agreed to do so.

Many examples of shoddy, unprofessional work done by the contractor were cited during our meeting. Our DPW Director agreed to go above and beyond his responsibility in correcting many of the issues we discussed. We can't thank him enough for doing so. The Cemetery Commission made it clear that we would not recommend the contractor for future work in our valued cemeteries. We request that the Town does not give this contractor positive recognition or assistance in getting the certificate status he is looking for, in this type of work.

Jack Kiefer noted that due to the flooding in the street, people often climb over the new fence and walk along a pathway inside the cemetery, as they are unable to travel through the water in the flooded street. Jack wondered if we should remove a section of the fence so people would not be climbing over it. We agreed to discuss this in our next meeting.