

MINUTES
CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 22, 2018

Meeting called to order @ 3:08pm.

Present: Mike Harpie (Chair), Lynne Martin, Dawn Walsh

Absent: Susan Avellar

We had accumulated several deeds for cemetery plots which needed to be signed and one request to buy back a plot. All were signed and approved.

Mike confirmed that we were all in agreement to ask the Select Board*** to approve the transfer of funds from the Perpetual Care Fund to the Cemetery Gift Fund, or to make it available to us at this time, so it could be used for conservation of monuments in the Hamilton/Gifford Cemeteries recent bid while the contracted company is on site this fall. The contract price increased significantly from what was budgeted, so we are short by \$10,800.00 to complete the work in the Base Bid and Two Alternates. We would like to have the work completed for the Base Bid, as well as Alternates 1 & 2, so that the original bid package will be COMPLETED AND BEHIND US in its entirety . Furthermore, as so much time has elapsed since this project was budgeted, if funds are available, we would like to use additional monies to conserve monuments that have become in URGENT need of conservation in those cemeteries. Many stones and memorials are in desperate need of attention and repair. We are afraid that they will not survive if we wait any longer. By having them conserved now, we will save a tremendous amount of money, vs. having them left to further deteriorate.

***PLEASE NOTE THAT IN SPEAKING WITH THE TREASURER AFTER THE MEETING, I WAS INFORMED THAT WE MAY PROCEED WITH USING \$10,800.00 TO COMPLETE WORK IN THE BASE BID AND BOTH ALTERNATES, AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, WITHOUT ASKING THE SELECT BOARD SO THIS WILL BE DONE.

Lynne Martin will draft a letter to the DPW asking them to schedule maintenance of the Winthrop Street Cemetery twice yearly, as was agreed upon in the past. Since this cemetery has gone through extensive conservation, it is in desperate need of being regularly maintained. Thank you, Lynne.

There was a discussion about some requests that we had received from people who were asking to alter the rules for placement and sizes of new monuments in the cemeteries. Some of the people have been very persistent with their requests, with involvement by Cape Cod Monument and Stone Co. We all agreed that these requests would be looked at on a case-to-

case basis by the Commission with the involvement of Tony Lemme, as he supervises the maintenance of the cemeteries.

We received a request from a Mr. Tim Lemire who asked for permission to photograph/video in our cemeteries, as he is making a series of short YouTube videos called "Writers at Rest". Each video is footage of a famous author's final resting place, over which plays a reading from his or her work. He is interested in including Norman Mailer in the series. I viewed several of the videos which are very tastefully done. We all agreed that he does not need our permission to video. I sent him a copy of our Cemetery Booklet, suggesting that he may want to include others listed in the booklet when he visits. He thanked us and stated that will visit and video in the fall.

We were also made aware of part time resident named Jason Brown who has been doing extensive documenting work in our cemeteries and including the information on his website "findagrave.com". Mr. Brown came in to attend our last Cemetery Commission Meeting, which was cancelled due to not having a quorum, with the intention of sharing his research (which is his hobby) with us. We may be able to have him return in the future. Please take a look at the website. A lot of time and effort has been expended in creating it and it seems quite accurate and very interesting.

Lynne Martin and Connie Tavanis along with a couple of other volunteers (whose names I do not know) have been documenting people and families who are buried in the cemeteries, as well. Their work has been ongoing for some time and is quite remarkable. I became aware of this phenomenal project a short while ago when Connie invited me into her studio where all of the research is initially compiled prior to becoming computerized. I made a suggestion that Lynne, Connie, and Susan present us with details of this worthwhile project in an upcoming Cemetery Commission Meeting. The October meeting was suggested. My great and sincere THANKS goes out to everyone for their dedication and time consuming hard work.

Cemetery Finances: The Gift Fund has a slight increase due to donations received for the Cemetery Booklets. We agreed to put our heads together to come up with a somewhat formal fundraiser this fall (possibly around Halloween) to make the booklets available to those who would like to donate to the Gift Fund.

Next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, September 12th, at Town Hall, Caucus Hall.

Meeting was adjourned @ 3:48pm

Respectfully,

Michael P. Harpie
Chairman, Cemetery Commission