

Provincetown Cemetery Commission
Public Meeting
January 9, 2019
Minutes

Call to Order: 3pm

Members in Attendance: Susan Avellar, Michael Harpie, Dawn Walsh

Members Absent: Lynne Martin

1. Minutes of December 5, 2018: Moved to approve as presented, Susan Avellar, 2nd Dawn Walsh, Vote: 3 0 0
2. Cemetery Plot Sales: 0
3. Winthrop Street Cemetery Restoration – on-hold until the spring
4. Gifford and Hamilton Cemeteries Restoration – on hold until spring
5. Alden Street Old Section Cemetery Bid Process – ready to move forward with new bid process, expecting a 15% increase from last bid process in 2015
6. Alden Street Cemetery New Section – current issues, see Green Burial below
7. General discussion re practice of police blocking off Cemetery Road with saw horses during large town events to keep folks from driving and parking their cars on cemetery grounds. Town police used to do this, but not currently. Talk of asking them to reinstitute the practice, but no vote or formal decision made.
8. Finances – no change from last month’s report
9. Annual Town Report – Michael will compile and submit highlighting accomplishments and new initiatives, including restoration work, Patriot’s Day ceremony, and green burial.
10. Walk through of cemeteries to create annual maintenance objectives – Michael and Susan will work together on this project
11. Green Burial – Dawn and Michael did a walk through of Alden Cemetery New and propose reserving a flat section of 30 plots in the center section of Alden New designated for Green Burial. All in attendance agreed this area makes sense (flat, no lots already purchased there). Michael will ask that the Town Clerk hold these lots as not for sale as the Cemetery Commission continues exploring options and policies for Green Burial.
12. Green Burial – Dawn presented a draft of policy changes that would incorporate Green Burial practices and policies into the existing Rules and Regulations. All in attendance agreed with proposed changes with two small edits and one main concern re the allowance of hand opening and closing of graves. Concerns centered on issues of town liability, fulfilling specification requirements, and ability to complete the job. Dawn will seek further advice from the Town (DPW & Administrative Assistant) re these concerns and report back. Dawn will also meet with the Town’s Board of Health staff to bring them into the conversation and address any concerns or questions.
13. Next Meeting: February 6, 3pm

Meeting Adjourned: 4:15pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Dawn Walsh