

Meeting of the Provincetown Cemetery Commission  
November, 2, 2009

Provincetown Community Center

Members present

Richard Olson—Chair

Gregory Howe—vice Chair

Mark Collins—member

Astrid Berg—member

Dwayne Raymond Prickett—secretary

Others Present: Sharon Lynn: Town Manager, Alix Helalia ; town financial officer, Tony Lemme; DPW & Cemetery Superintendent, Tom Myers; Provincetown resident and abutter to the Winthrop St. Cemetery, Mr. Sebastian Aranjo; Provincetown resident, Mr. Richard Keating; Winthrop St. Cemetery volunteer

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Meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by Chair, Richard Olsen.

The Commission immediately bypassed the agenda and entertained discussion with the Town Manager and Alix Helalia about funds belonging to the Provincetown Cemetery Commission.

Mr. Olson asked if the \$13,572.69 that is in the fund is available to us. Ms. Helalia said yes those funds are available and the monies can be used by the commission and the cemetery superintendent to buy needed replacement equipment. Then there was a discussion concerning the cost of engineering studies for the proposed two acres that is needed for the cemetery. Ms. Lynn said the estimates that had come in about those engineering costs were around \$7,000.00. It was proposed by the Chair that the estimates be taken to the special town meeting on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> and that it be placed on the Town Warrant for that meeting. The members unanimously agreed and the motion was passed that the proposal for paying for the costs of engineering be on the Town Warrant for the STM.

Mr. Lemme then remarked to those present that leveling of the ground in question would begin the following week. Mr. Lemme also said that the cost of a new casket lowering device, which the cemetery needs, would be \$2,200.00. Mr. Howe motioned that we appropriate the funds to acquire the device. Members unanimously agree and the motion is passed.

There was further discussion about future possible equipment purchases.

Mr. Olson then moved the meeting back to the published agenda. The meeting minutes from the previous commission meeting were accepted by the members.

Mr. Howe suggested we table any discussion of the proposed columbarium until after the engineering of the new ground is done. The members agreed to this.

A report detailing the Cemetery receipts for F.Y. 7/1/08-6/30/09 was okayed by the commission.

Discussion of volunteer work done by Mr. Keating in the Winthrop Street Cemetery ensued. Mr. Olsen showed a Cape Cod Times article that had appeared that day to the members, which was relevant to the clean up that had occurred at Winthrop Street.

Mr. Keating informed the commission that his work in the Winthrop Street Cemetery was completed and that he was relocating to Vermont. Mr. Keating then presented a report to the commission that was prepared by a man named Salvador R. Vasques III, which details stones in the Winthrop St. Cemetery. Mr. Raymond-Prickett said he would make copies of the report and distribute them to the members.

The commission then agreed to okay the request of Edith Wood to transfer a plot to Carol McDonald.

Mr. Lemme was then officially appointed by a unanimous vote as the Provincetown Cemetery Superintendent.

Mr. Myer stated that as an abutter to the Winthrop St. Cemetery, he would like to continue the work of Mr. Keating. There was discussion of perhaps enticing Americorps to come back into the picture and assist with the maintenance of Winthrop St. because it is a "constant maintenance" situation. There was discussion of using approved chemicals to retard any re-growth of certain varieties of trees that have been cut to stumps. This is necessary because of the root spread of certain varieties of trees.

Mr. Lemme informed the commission that the acquisition of 1 & 1/4 acre would make the Provincetown Cemetery viable for around 30 years. He also mentioned that careful thought should be put into any planting of trees in the proposed new area because of root base spread.

Mr. Olsen set the date for the next meeting to be December 14, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the community center.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Submitted by Dwayne Raymond-Prickett  
Secretary, Provincetown Cemetery Commission