

MINUTES

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

Present: Richard Olson, Chairman, Greg Howe, Charles Westcott and Mark Collins.

Absent: Rev. Jim Cox.

Also Attending: David Gardner, Asst. Town Mgr., Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk, Michelle Jarusiewicz, Grant Adm., Lynn Martin MIS, and Tony Lemme, Cemetery Superintendent.

(These minutes treat the agenda items in the order they appeared on the agenda and by no means in the order they were actually discussed).

1. The minutes of the January 7, 2013 meeting were approved.
2. There were no cemetery plot sales to approve.
3. Election of Officers: Richard Olson was re-elected Chairman, Mark Collins was elected Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Olson will continue as Secretary pro tem.
4. Alden Street Expansion: It appears that Nstar costs were covered in the B & B Electric invoices already paid. There is still the cost of metal tags for each new plot (approx. 200) plus tags for plots recently identified as vacant in already-developed areas and for their now to be re-numbered neighboring plots (approx. 300) for a potential cost of $\$4.65 \times 500 = \$2,325$. This still might leave \$7,000 to \$8,000 from the original \$26,000 appropriation, which Town Meeting might be asked to re-appropriate toward repair of fallen or at risk gravestones in the Alden Street Cemetery.

Mr. Lemme, Ms. Martin and Mr. Johnstone will meet concerning this re-numbering project.

- 5 Columbarium Project: The public forum is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13 (which is Ash Wednesday by some fated coincidence). Official notices and press release are out. The Commission approved a \$1,000 amendment to the Martha Lyon contract, for her to appear and make a presentation.
- 6 Winthrop Street Cemetery Preservation: Ms. Jarusiewicz reported that she is deep into the project of preparing bid documents for Phase 2, the remaining stone preservation work, as necessitated by the A. G's. rejection of our previous RFP process. Unfortunately, the need to treat this as other than a project for professional conservators results in our needing to set aside \$5,000 out of the \$40,000 CPC grant for professional supervision. Thus Ms. Jarusiewicz is structuring a base-bid plus alternates bid format, which will include the 31 MCC-identified priority 2 stones and some number of the 62 priority 3 stones in the base bid, with the balance of such stones in the alternate. Mr. Howe volunteered to assist in the divvy-up.

Further concerning Winthrop Street, Ms. Lynn reported that Americorps volunteers worked on January 30 clearing underbrush and other tasks specified in the Master Plan. Three more broken headstones have been discovered.

With respect to the proposed Smallpox Memorial, we are awaiting Jim Cox's report on possible designs and their costs. Dennis Rhodes' fund-raising efforts are on-going.

7. Amending Cemetery Rules and Regulations: Town Clerk Doug Johnstone presented his mark-up of the current R&R's along with clean copy for our comment. In his view, this format, when finally decided upon will suffice as a Handbook. Because we are an appointed board, revised rules and Regs. need only be approved by the Board of Selectmen, and not by Town Meeting.
8. Natural or "Green" Interments: Tony Lemme reported that he knows of no law or state regulation in the matter, which confirms the Chairman's own research. It seems to be a matter of local discretion, and Mr. Lemme says that in 1955 the Town regulated against. It appears that with our sandy soil, and a long history of cave-ins which have near swallowed persons and equipment, it is not an option for Provincetown. Must incorporate the requirement for vaults in our Rules & Regs.
9. Cemetery Finances: The Chairman distributed the Scanlon report of status at December 31, 2012, and described his lingering questions.
10. Membership: Mr Olson undertook to invite Connie Tavanis to join us on the Commission.
11. Items for ATM Warrant: There is only the re-appropriation described under item 4, for which Mr. Olson undertook to draft an article for review by Mr. Gardner and Mr. Johnstone prior to the March 1 closing date.
12. Outer Cape Cemetery Association: Mr. Olson presented his concept for such an informal association to discuss and share information and experiences that all of our Outer Cape cemetery commissions have in common.
13. Other Business: Mr. Jeff Adams, a resident of Court Street, shared his strong opinions regarding the work being done pursuant to the

Preservation Master Plan, on grounds keeping at the Winthrop Street Cemetery. He is mostly dis-approving, and a lively discussion ensued..

The date for the next meeting was set for Monday, March 4, 2013, at 2:00pm. in the Caucus Room at Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Olson,
Chairman and Secretary pro tem.