

MINUTES

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

MARCH 4, 2013

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

Absent: Rev. Jim Cox and Mark Collins.

Also Attending: Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk, and Gary Reinhardt.

(These minutes treat the agenda items in the order they appeared on the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were actually discussed).

1. The minutes of the February 4 and 13, 2013 meetings were approved.
2. There were no cemetery plots sales to approve.
3. Alden Street Cemetery:

No progress was reported on final lay-out of new plots or acquisition and placement of tags.

As to fallen stones repair, Mr. Olson reported that he has submitted to David Gardner a draft Warrant Article for April ATM to re-appropriate unused funds from the expansion appropriation for this purpose. The Commission voted to sponsor such article.

4. Columbarium proposal:

Doug Johnstone assured us that the \$800 invoice from Martha Lyon was within the \$6,000 amount contracted for her work presenting alternative proposals.

Noting that the lack of attendance at our public hearing leaves us with no way to gauge how our future customers feel in the matter, the suggestion was made that it might be sufficient and economical to enclose the existing area used for interment of cremated remains (which has about 30 spaces occupied and perhaps 80 – 100 unoccupied) with a low stone wall and a planting to set it apart from the adjacent office-garage.

5. Winthrop Street Cemetery:

The Chairman reported that the CPC has approved our full \$50,000 request for phases 3 and 4 of the restoration project, and the Commission voted to support the relevant Article at ATM.

Doug Johnstone advised us of litter and clutter on the Court Street side of the Cemetery, and Cemetery Superintendent Tony Lemme will be asked to correct this.

Mr. Johnstone will inquire of Michelle Jarusiewicz concerning the request for bids on the stymied phase 2 of the restoration project.

Concerning the proposed Smallpox Memorial, Mr. Olson reported that he has been in touch with, and sent materials to, two monument providers on Cape Cod and the Barre (Vermont) Marble Association, seeking design proposals and cost estimates. To date, \$1,100 has been donated.

6. Amended Cemetery Rules and Regulations:

Doug Johnstone circulated a current draft incorporating suggested changes by Mr. Olson and Mr. Howe. Mr. Olson will meet with Mr. Johnstone on some further suggestions he has to offer.

7. Cemetery Finances : No new report has been received.

8. Membership :

It was reported that Connie Tavanis has declined the suggestion, but that Bill Gately has expressed a tentative interest. Potential conflict of interest concerns were briefly discussed.

9. Other Business :

Mr. Gary Reinhardt, who serves as Rabbi for our local Jewish community, made a presentation of the concept he and others have of creating a set-aside portion of the Alden Street expansion for Jewish burials. This could be accomplished, perhaps, by their creation of a Jewish Burial Society which would purchase some 30 – 50 adjacent lots, plus lots to create a perimeter on which could be placed, perhaps, a split rail fence as a sort of set-off. The full cost of all lots, including those to create the perimeter, would be paid to the Town up-front, together with the required contributions to the Perpetual Care Trust Fund.

Mr. Olson noted that, by his calculation, if a 30 lot set aside were located in a corner portion of the expansion – say with one side along Alden Street and another along a new split-rail fence setting off the restricted Spade Foot Toad area – then 14 additional lots would be needed to create the rest of the perimeter, for a total set-aside of 44 lots.

Potential objections were aired, among them:

1. Should the Town's cemetery have any sectarian subdivisions?
2. What if other groups want to do the same?
3. Should 14 lots, or any other number, be set aside for other than interments, given the finite (although seemingly ample for the foreseeable future) number of lots available?

Mr. Howe gave it as his opinion that none of these potential objections need be given too great weight.

Mr. Reinhardt mentioned that Nantucket followed his suggested course some years ago, and Mr. Olson undertook to contact those in that Town who might offer some insight in the matter.

The date for the next meeting was set for Monday, April 1, 2013 at 2:00pm. In the Caucus Hall at Town Hall. Mr. Olson noted that he will be absent and so the Chairman's duties will devolve upon Mr. Collins, and Mr. Howe will act as Secretary.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Olson,
Chairman and Secretary pro tem.