

MINUTES

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

AUGUST 5, 2013

Present: Richard Olson, Chairman, Greg Howe, Ann Wood and Rev. Jim Cox.

Absent: Charles Westcott and Mark Collins.

Also Attending: Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the June, 2013 meeting were approved.
2. Approval of Cemetery Plot Sales: Our Town Clerk presented the sales for one double lot, four single lots and one cremation plot, which were approved.
3. Alden Street Cemetery: The Chairman reported that he has not heard back from our Cemetery Superintendant, Tony Lemme, with an inventory of the broken gravestones he has in storage or other at-risk stones that might be the subject of another under - \$5,000 contract with MCC.
4. Columbarium improvement of existing section: Mr. Collins was not present to report on any discussion with his landscape architect friend.
5. Winthrop Street Cemetery Restoration Project:
 - (a). MCC was the winning (and only) bidder for the phase 2 part of the project – the remaining stone preservation – for which we have a \$40,000 CPC grant, and they will attend to the project in the fall. As to phases 3 and 4, which involve engineering, dune support work, a new entranceway on Court Street and the lay-out and landscaping of walkways, for which

We have a \$50,000 CPC grant, Michelle Jarusiewicz is working on an RFP for design work.

As to design issues, we need to get the advisory committee together again, involving the Conservation, Disability and Historic District Commissions, and with neighborhood in-put. Location of the gate and footpaths and the best means of erosion control will all be issues.

The Chairman reported that he has begun work on an application for a further CPC grant (due in November) for phase 5 (educational signage, estimated by Martha Lyon at \$10,000 - \$15,000) plus whatever may be needed to complete phases 2, 3 and 4.

(b). With respect to the Smallpox Memorial, the Chairman reported that he contacting Polly Burnell of the Historic District Commission and Steve Borkowski of the Art Commission to be sure they have no problem with the design (subsequent report – they do not, and the Chairman has also been in touch with Eric Dray of the Historical Commission and Connie Black, a long time advocate for adequate remembrance of the smallpox victims. Once design is settled we can do a press release and renewed fundraising.

6. Cemetery Finances: Reports on the current status of the various funds were circulated.

With respect to moneys which appear to have never been deposited in the in the Perpetual Care Trust Fund and the Sale of Lots Fund, and thus to have been diverted to the General Fund, from F.Y. 2033 to F.Y. 2008, the Chairman wondered aloud whether it was worthwhile going for a claw-back – given that the Municipal Finance Department could argue that the Sale of Lots moneys, at least, could have been legitimately used for cemetery maintenance work and equipment, while the Perpetual Care moneys appear from invoice forms never to have been collected at all. Town Clerk Doug Johnstone suggested we ask for one-half the missing funds to be restored.

The amounts at stake, as subsequently re-calculated, are \$33,450 for the Sale of Lots Fund and \$3,600 for the Perpetual Care Trust Fund (the required was only \$50 per lot.) These total \$37,050, one half of which is \$18,525. Do we want to pursue this?

7. Other Business: Ann Wood suggested a fund-raising initiative for Winthrop Street Cemetery in the form of a Halloween invitation for (parentally-accompanied) youngsters to visit, get candy and be given a little tour. Hours 4 to 6 on October 31, a gift box for donations, coordinated by the Recreation Department's Brandon Motta. The initiative was approved, with Ms. Wood to take the lead.

Mr. Howe presented the fact that the VFW would like to re-locate three memorial plaques from their soon-to-be-sold Jerome Smith Road property to the Alden Street Cemetery. (Perhaps we should have the request in writing.) Fees for space might be waived for veterans, and they would be responsible for the physical re-location. Questions of location(s), and mounting. Paul Mendez to be consulted, and, possibly Bill Gately. Apparently no ashes are involved.

8. Next Meeting: The date of the meeting was set for September 3, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard B. Olson,
Chairman, and Secretary pro tem.