

## MINUTES

### PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

Present: Richard Olson, Chairman, Ann Wood, Rev. Jim Cox and Mark Collins.

Absent: Charles Westcott and Greg Howe.

Also Attending: Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk.

1. Minutes: The Minutes of the August 5, 2013 meeting were approved.
2. Approval of Cemetery Plot Sales: Our Town Clerk presented the sales for one double lot, and one single lot, which were approved.
3. Alden Street Cemetery: The Chairman's proposal to issue another under-\$5,000 contract to MCC to repair broken and at risk stones, while MCC is here this fall for work at Winthrop Street, was approved; to be paid from the Expendable Portion of the Perpetual Care Trust Fund.

(Tony Lemme, Cemetery Superintendent, has subsequently provided a list of eight stones he judges to be in "desperate need of repair", plus he has three stones stored in the yard.)

(Further regarding Alden Street, Mr. Lemme reports that all of the work on the expansion project has been completed. Thus we may now establish the unexpended balance of the funds appropriated and ask Town Meeting to re-appropriate them, perhaps for the improvement of the area reserved for cremated remains.)

4. Columbarium: With respect to the area for cremated remains, Mr. Collins is meeting very shortly with his landscape-architect friend to discuss an

appropriate shielding of this area from the DPW garage and parking, and the potential costs. Lynn Martin of MIS has provided us with a plot of the area (incidentally, showing about 43 unoccupied burial spaces). The consensus seems to favor relying entirely upon trees and shrubbery, with no sort of wall or fence.

5. Winthrop Street: (a) The Chairman reported per Michelle Jarusiewicz, that the contract with MCC for phase 2, restoration of most of the remaining in-need stones, has been signed and the required consultation with Mass. Historical has been undertaken. The work is expected to begin in October.

(b) Reported that Michelle Jarusiewicz is about to begin drafting a request for proposals for design work for phases 3 and 4.

(c) As to the Smallpox Memorial, the Commission approved a design based upon “ledger-stone” monuments such as are to be found in historic Boston cemeteries, and also approved a draft press release. Also approved was the proposed text for the plaque, with the elimination of what, was deemed to be redundant use of the word “remote”.

Renewed fund-raising is the next order of business.

6. Cemetery Finances: No current report from the Municipal Finance Dept. was available (but one has been received subsequently, copies of which are attached.)

As to moneys received for deposit in the Sale of Lots Fund and the Perpetual Care Trust Fund which were apparently deposited in the Town’s General Fund from F.Y. 2003 to F.Y. 2008, the consensus was that the Chairman should approach the Director of Municipal Finance with the figures and discuss the needs and uses to which even half those funds, if appropriated by Town Meeting, could be put.

7. Halloween at Winthrop Street Cemetery: Ann Wood reported that she has had great difficulty getting in touch with Brandon Motta, Recreation Director, in whose court this ball now rests. We still have our October

meeting to take this up.

8. VFW plaques relocation: We have an official request letter from A. Fingado, Commander of the Post, to accept transfer of four bronze markers honoring fallen Comrades. We agreed to welcome these to be placed flush to the ground, along the top row of spaces shown on the plot plan furnished to us by MIS, at no charge! (Tony Lemme has already volunteered to provide the transport.) Doug Johnstone is our contact person with the VFW.
9. Other Business: Ann Wood brought up the subject of non-resident Taxpayers who have objected to our two year residency rule for acquiring plots in the Cemetery. It was pointed out that the two years need not be consecutive, but we may not be clear, or consistent, whether, for example, 3 months per year for 8 years (= 24 months) qualifies. An item for the next agenda.

Mr. Olson raised a concern, occasioned by a letter in the Banner about some disruption during a commercial “Ghost Tour” in the Cemetery, as to whether we should even permit such an activity, given the risks after dark, unsupervised scurrying about where old stones may topple or new sink holes open up. (Subsequently, Tony Lemme has assured that these tours keep to the roadways in the Cemetery and pose no risk.)

Mr. Collins advised us that he would be spending winters in New Orleans and be un-available to attend meetings. He would stay aboard unless we can find a replacement member. Noted that Charles Westcott is already inviting us to find his replacement, and also that Mr. Collins would also be able to participate in meetings by telephone, although he would not be counted toward making up a quorum. And so the matter was left.

10. The date of the next meeting was set for October 7, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Olson.  
Chairman and Secretary pro tem.

(As the meeting wound up, Lynn Martin joined us to urge the addition of trees to the newly developed section of Alden Street Cemetery, noting the character that even a very few trees can lend.)