

MINUTES
PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
APRIL 7, 2016

Present: Richard Olson (Chairman), Susan Avellar, Kurt Reynolds, Jim Cox and Jack Kieffer.

The Meeting Convened at 2:05pm.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the February 4, meeting was approved as presented.
2. Cemetery Plot Sales: No sales of lots were presented.
3. Winthrop Street Cemetery Restoration, Phases 3, 4 and 5: There is still no word from our Grant Administrator on when the Invitation for Bids will go out.
4. Gifford and Hamilton Cemeteries: Still no word on when the Invitation for Bids will go out. The Chairman reported that Irving Slavid of MCC had advised against the idea that we delay and see if this stone conservation work could be combined with that at the Alden Street Old Section (see item 5) in the interests of efficiency and economy.
5. Alden Street Cemetery Old Section: The Chairman reported that our \$40,000 grant application to carry out Priorities 1 and 2 of the MCC report, was approved by Town Meeting.
6. Alden Street New Sections: Nothing to report.
7. Cemetery Finances: The Finance Directors report as of 3/31/16 is attached.
8. Brochure Project: Reported progressing.

9. Other Business: There was discussion of requests by Gately Funeral Home for the setting up of Town furnished chairs at funerals and occasional use of DPW employees to act as pall-bearers. Jim Cox has discussed these matters with Brian Cowing at DPW. The Commission discussed various related matters. We have no tent to provide. We would prefer DPW not to be imposed upon to provide chairs and pall-bearers (who ought at least to have the opportunity to be properly attired) but if necessary should be requested well in advance. Ditto if traffic control, cones, etc. will be needed. Jim Cox will draft a form letter to funeral homes outlining our policy, for approval at our next meeting.

The site for return of the Capt. Small and sons memorial was discussed, and Mr. Olson will take it up with Tony Lemme.

The restoration of the fencing along Winthrop Street damaged by snow scooping over the winter of 2014 – 2015, has not been carried out. Mr. Olson will discuss with DPW's Rich Waldo. At the same time, we will ask DPW not to scoop snow on to our cemeteries for the very reason that it is bound to damage fencing and even historic stones. Ruth Ann Cowing volunteered to re-inforce this request.

Susan Avellar reported that she has seen fragments of gravestones that people have appropriated as ornaments and which needs to be re-possessed. She and Kurt Reynolds will pursue this with Tony Lemme.

Susan also reported that Provincetown citizen Helen Valentine, who for years has undertaken diligent undergrowth trimming and debris clean-up at our historical cemeteries has now retired from the task. The Commission expressed its very great appreciation, and Susan will draft a letter to Mrs. Valentine.

10. Next Meeting: Set for May 5 (Cinco de Mayo in Mexico), 2016 at 2:00pm at Town Hall.

The Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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