

CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 6, 2008

LOCATION: Cemetery Caretaker grounds keeping Shed, Provincetown Cemetery

Members Present

Richard Olson—chair

Gregory Howe—vice chair

Dwayne Raymond-Prickett—secretary

Astrid Berg—Member

Anthony Kalantziz—DPW worker with Cemetery Grounds

--2:00pm Mr. Olson calls meeting to order.

--Mr. Anthony Kalantziz presented statistics for grounds keeping etc for the dates of July, 2001 through June 29th of 2008.

--The minutes from the previous meeting are discussed.

--There was then a brief discussion about the smallpox cemetery and whether or not we should, as a committee, pursue having it fall under the purview of the Provincetown Cemetery commission.

--It was decided that a decision may come later on that but it is not something the commission should go forward with at this time. Mr. Prickett said that he will at some future date, visit the Smallpox cemetery and give details about that visit.

--Further discussion of the minutes.

--Mr. Olson asked if there is indeed still something called “friends of the Winthrop Street Cemetery.” The members then agree that none of them are aware of such a group.

--Mr. Olson then said that again no one had contacted him from Gately funeral home about whether there is one or two checks remitted to the cemetery fund after a funeral.

--All members agreed that there is still much confusion surrounding answers about the Cemetery fund’s management over the past years.

--Mr. Olson then read from the 0’7 town report which states that there was \$12,000.00 listed for the Cemetery fund.

--Mr. Anthony Kalantziz (presently a worker in the cemetery through the DPW) told the members that every visit for work to each cemetery or other work site is written down. That list is then submitted to the DPW so there is record of all work done.

--Mr. Olson pointed out to the members (referring again to the cemetery perpetual care fund and the confusion about monies) that funds that go into the perpetual care fund come from the sale of lots. Some donations are accumulated also, but most monies are garnered from sales.

--There was a short discussion about the area designated for ashes burial.

--The members were informed by the DPW worker present, Mr. Kalantziz, that there is plenty of spaced for burial of ashes in the small area of the cemetery designated.

--The members recognized a member of the Provincetown Community who was also present, Mr. "Mo" Van Derek. Mr. Van Derek informed the members that soon there would be the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and that our town memorial to veterans of that war mostly recognizes seamen. He informed the members that the old marble of the memorial seem to be getting ruined by acid rain and soon the names will not be able to be read. He suggested a revision of the names and how to do that. (revision? Clarification perhaps?) He suggested the addition of a bronze plaque attachment, possibly, but there was the reservation that it might be stolen. Mr. Howe noted that the re-etching of marble is difficult. One possibility is to sink any bronze addition deep into the ground, anchored to cement to prevent theft.

--Mr. Van Derek suggested the revision of names on our monument because he has been informed by his son who is a civil war writer that there is a good possibility that many of the names on our memorial are also listed on other memorials on Cape Cod. He informed the members that his son is doing research on that issue and when he has answers will get back to us about any repeat names.

--Mr. Howe suggested rubbings in order to correctly do research on the names. Mr. Van Derek said his son would be able to help out with the rubbing and the research through his Harvard affiliation.

--The members then discuss what would actually be considered the true anniversary of the civil war—beginning or end?

Mr. Olson said that he will discuss the matter with Laurel Gandazno at the Provincetown museum to see what information she may have concerning the issue.

--Mr. Van Derek said he would discuss Memorial Day celebrations and parades with members of VFW and other VFW's around cape as they pertain to any civil war anniversaries. Apparently, all the Memorial Day parades for many years began at the memorial in town. This was ended sometime after the Vietnam Vets returned who were unable to make the trek out to the memorial area.

--In a return to the minutes, Mr. Olson talked about the layout of the cemetery. Ms. Berg asks about where the available remaining land is. It was discussed that the perimeter of the remaining land for the cemetery runs from soccer field to Alden street. Approximately 3.5 acres. (note- please check)

--In a return to the minutes, all members then agreed that there was still much that is not clear about the difference between the perpetual care funds and the general care funds.

--Mr. Howe pointed out that prices have changed over the years so certain fees also changed. This brought up discussion about comparable fees in other towns. Again Mr. Olson said we've not received any information about this from Mr. Gately from the funeral home who said he would supply the commission with this information as to comparisons.

--Mr. Kalantziz suggested that there be more enforcement of the Animal Rules for the cemetery. Mr. Prickett then suggested the possibility of installing plastic bag dispensers around the grounds rather like the ones that are supplied near beach entrances along the town and perhaps more trash cans for animal waste.

--Mr. Kalantziz also pointed out to the members the need for new chains and other burial materials for efficient operation of the cemetery. The members agree this is a priority and will check into exactly where the funds to do it should come from; the perpetual care fund or the general DPW fund. Mr. Howe suggested that Mr. Kalantziz supply the commission with a list of all equipment needs. There was then discussion of the various materials in disrepair including the burial platform which is used during funerals and a tractor which is more than 8 years old. Mr. Kalantziz then also points out again the list of all the times which are noted about how much time is spent working in the cemetery—ie, work order sheets, etc. for clarification. He points out also that some work done in the cemetery revolves around the

removal of graffiti. He informed the members that it was not a huge problem but it is a problem around town in general.

--In summation, all members were in agreement that there is still the need for clear figures about the perpetual care funds, their distinction from other funds, and the use of those funds over the past years. The members are awaiting any information that Alex Heilala has said she will submit to the commission.

--Mr. Olson suggested that the meeting be adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2008 in the yellow room of the main fire house. Meeting adjourns at 3:15 pm.

Submitted by
Dwayne Raymond-Prickett
Secretary
Provincetown Cemetery Commission
October 31, 2008