

MINUTES
PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION
AUGUST 6, 2015

Present: Richard Olson, Chairman, Greg Howe, Jack Kiefer
and Kurt Reynolds.

Absent: Jim Cox and Susan Avellar.

Also Present: Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk, Ruth Dutra and Ruth Ann
Cowing.

The meeting convened at 5:00pm.

1. Minutes: The minutes for the July 2, 2015 meeting were approved.
2. Cemetery Plot Sales: Doug Johnstone presented two sales of double lots and three sales of single lots, which were approved.
3. Winthrop Street Restoration, Phases 3, 4, and 5 : RDLA has produced something they label "Design Development Outline Specification" – 5 pages, copies of which are attached to these minutes, together with large rolled-up maps, presumably to be the basis of an invitation for bids to get the work done.

Our discussion is well summarized in Doug Johnstone's text to Michelle Jarusiewicz, as follows:

" Group consensus was to have granite benches similar to what already exists there and not the bench in the photo that appears in the Outline - and only one bench with location as yet to be determined but near either of the handicapped entrances;"

"Absolutely no chain link fence, not even for temporary purposes not only due to the aesthetic and impediments to wildlife issues, but also due to the cost of paying for something temporary not to be used again. The group thought the chain link fence as proposed in the Outline was "wildly inappropriate" and actually took a vote that no chain link fence be used, which was approved by a vote of 4-0-0."

"The discussion was somewhat limited because Chair Richard Olson had not received the Outline in advance of the meeting and felt he needed more time to review it, but to summarize the discussion, the Commission felt that the project was expensive, far exceeded expectations in that they want and expected the project to be scaled back from initial plans (and thought this is what came out of a public meeting held on the use, and were frustrated because while they expect the project to be scaled back they also do not want or expect to see substitutions that were not previously discussed or considered – as appear in the Outline."

"Also, many members were still concerned that the Mobi-Mats are not being considered as they feel this may be a better option since the mats can be taken up in the winter months, be purchased in a variety of colors so may blend in more with the natural environment, and may be the more cost effective option overall, yet no mention

of mobi-mats in the Outline, or why no explanation as to why they are not a consideration.”

Michelle will create an executive summary (and she has subsequently arranged for Ray Dunitz of RDLA to attend our September 3 meeting.) Michelle’s two text messages in response to Doug are also attached to those minutes.

Further relating to Winthrop Street, Ruth Ann Cowing spoke of the ongoing need for cleaning up trash and regular maintenance. Another visit from Americorps would be welcome, and another trash can. Principally, we need regular attention from DPW and the Chairman undertook to write to DPW Director Rich Waldo, copy to the Selectmen, emphasizing the need for their attention on a regular on-going basis.

The ongoing problem of damages to the granite and pipe fencing on the perimeter of Winthrop Street was not addressed.

4. Gifford and Hamilton Cemeteries: The needs assessment by MCC for stone preservation being in hand, plus the grant from the CPC, the Chairman will again inquire of Michelle Jarusiewicz as to when the request for proposals will go out.
5. Alden Street, Old Section: The Chairman presented the proposal of Monument Conservation Collaborative (MCC) to do a needs assessment at a price of \$9,950, thus eliminating the state law requirement for opening up a request for proposals process, and this was accepted by the Commission and so voted, with a recommendation for approval by the Acting Town Manager. This will be funded by our prior appropriation of the cost from the Expendable Portion of the Perpetual Care Trust Funds.
6. Alden Street New Sections: No current matters to be reported on. (But see Other Business).
7. Cremated Remains Area: Doug Johnstone reported that, at last, a barrier screen of nine Eastern Red cedar trees has been put in place to shield the cremation area from the DPW shed. It appears to be well worth the wait. Doug Particularly credited the volunteer assistance of Mr. Tim Callas of Wellfleet, who facilitated and supervised the installation. A letter expressing our thanks will go out to Mr. Callas. Brian Cowing of the DPW and his crew also did a great job on the project.

The Commission also voted to request that Tony Lemme comes before us before DPW undertakes any trimming of these trees, and voted to accept a Bartlett Tree contract at \$310, for two treatments of these trees over the course of a year.

8. Cemetery Finances: The latest report, as of July 31, from The Director of Municipal Finance, is enclosed with these minutes.
9. Brochure: The Chairman reported continued good progress, with the written contributions of Amy Whorf Mc Guigan.
10. Other Business: Doug Johnstone reported that the contracted services for cemetery maintenance are not working out well. Rider mowers are still being used, and there is

a large new tin housing for equipment. Doug will draft a memo, which the Chairman will use as the basis for a letter to Rich Waldo, with a request for a meeting to try and sort this out.

11. Next Meeting: Set for Thursday, September 3, 2015, at 5:00pm. at the MCC.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard B. Olson
Chairman and Secretary pro tem.