

Cemetery Commission

Meeting Minutes for February 5th, 2020

Meeting called to order @ 3:05PM.

In attendance: Michael Harpie - Chair, Dawn Walsh, Chris Brooke, Michael Chute

Also attending: Brian Cowing – Cemetery Supervisor

Excused absence: Sharon Bunn, Lynne Martin

Note: Ellen Battaglini has resigned.

Minutes from our January 8, 2020 were reviewed and accepted.

A discussion regarding future maintenance and care of all of the cemeteries was initiated by Brian Cowing giving everyone assurance that there would be a noticeable improvement, which has already begun.

In order to expedite the meeting, Mike Harpie quickly ran through the status of each of our cemeteries which has not changed significantly (yet). The balance in our Gift Fund is approx. \$828.00.

We had a discussion about our meeting in January with the Lower Cape Cemetery Commission which Mike Harpie, Lynne Martin, Sharon Bunn, & Chris Brooke attended. It was a great meeting in which we learned that although our cemeteries are quite different, we all have similar ideas and challenges. It was a wonderful way to network. We all agreed that we would like to attend future meetings and that the Provincetown Cemetery Commission could offer to host an upcoming meeting either before May 1st, 2020 or after October 31st, 2020, which would be the best time of the year considering traffic, parking, etc. Mike Harpie will propose this to the LCCC.

We were contacted by the Cemetery Advisory Committee in Dennis asking if we would have any interest in participating in a workshop to learn the proper way to clean headstones. We all (including Brian Cowing) agreed that this would be worthwhile. Mike Harpie will reply affirmatively to their invitation and keep everyone informed.

The Chairman reminds all that the Year Rounder's festival is coming up on March 14th in Town Hall. Last year we participated. It was a very fun day and we raised \$66.00 in donations for our booklets. We have reserved a table for this year's Festival. Anyone who would like to volunteer is welcome to do so.

On Monday, February 10th @ 1:00pm in the Judge Welsh Room, the CPC is scheduled to have a Public Forum. Since Mike Harpie will be out of town, Brian Cowing has agreed to go to answer any questions or reiterate the reasons we have requested additional funds to continue to conserve monuments in the Alden Street Cemetery, Phases 3 & 4. Anyone else who would like to attend in support of our requested

funding is welcome to go. Dawn Walsh, being a member of the CPC will most likely be unable to speak on our behalf.

The rest of the meeting was dedicated to an in-depth discussion regarding the changes we made to our Cemetery Rules and Regulations, including Green Burials for approval at our upcoming meeting with the Select Board on February 10th. Dawn Walsh met with Brian Cowing at the proposed site for Green Burials earlier in the week and reviewed the process of having a Green Burial. After listening to them, we contemplated making some minor changes to our submittal for approval, however, after further conversation we all agreed not to make any changes and to proceed. There seems to be enough information in our proposed changes and the specific details that we discussed will be added in the handout literature prior to the sale of all Green Burial plots. Specifically, in order to prepare the burial site, the DPW will use a metal 4 sided liner for the hole and will excavate much of the soil prior to the actual burial. Additionally, a hand cranking lowering device may be used to lower the body in some instances.

Chris Brooke made a motion to proceed without any additional changes, which was seconded unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm without scheduling an upcoming meeting. Therefore, I propose that our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 4th, 2020, at 3:00PM. If anyone cannot attend, please let me know.

Mike Harpie, Chair