

Provincetown Cemetery Commission

Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: October 11, 2023

Location: Provincetown Town Hall, Caucus Rm

Call to order: 3:01PM

In attendance:

Sharon Bunn (SB) (Vice Chair), Michael Chute (MC), Lynne Martin (LM), Timothy Famulare (TF) (Alternate), Robert Sweetman (RS) (Chair),

Excused absence: Thor Jensen (TJ alternate), Michael Harpie (MH)

Unexcused absence:

Also attending: David Agger (Wellfleet Cemetery Commission), Holly Gardner (Truro Cemetery Commission Chair), Nancy Vail (Wellfleet Cemetery Commission Chair)

Supporting materials: (List documents, photographs, maps, and drawings)

- Minutes from November 2009 Cemetery Meeting, request from Elizabeth Woods to transfer lot to Carol MacDonald and letter from then Cemetery Chair to Elizabeth Woods indicating approval

1. Review and approval of minutes:

Motion to approve with minor changes for use of undefined initials: TF Second by: MC Vote: 5-0-0

2. Review of Action Items: Deferred

3. Chair's report: Deferred

4. Public comments, if any: None

5. Buildings and Grounds Foreperson updates and discussion: None

6. Unfinished Cemetery Business:

- Continuing discussion of permissibility of pet remains accompanying human remains. TC and LM were not present for this discussion at the September meeting but were also supportive conceptually. Also there was agreement that this should be written into the Rules and Regulations but exact wording will be determined at next meeting.

7. New Cemetery business:

- Special Presentation: Alternative and Emerging Disposition Options. Several commissioners presented information on human composting (terramation), alkaline hydrolysis (water cremation), Burials-At-Sea, and Tree Pod Burials. All commissioners, including commissioners from Wellfleet and Truro felt this information to be a valuable resource similar to the Natural Burial FAQ on the Provincetown Cemetery site

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8. Cemetery lot purchases and deed modifications

- Deed for Myra Gold A332
Motion to approve by: TF Second by: MC Vote: 5-0-0
- Deeds for Charles West and Joseph White B223 and B224
Motion to approve by: TF Second by: MC Vote: 5-0-0
- Transfer of lot A179 (Old lot#123) Marsha Sirota contacted the Town Clerk regarding the transfer of the above lot to her wife Carol MacDonald. The transfer from Elizabeth Woods to Carol MacDonald which was approved in October 2009. Marsha Sirota provided a note from the Commission Chair at that time as well as the minutes from the meeting. Cemetery Superintendent had been tasked to correct paperwork but this was apparently not done. No deed had been provided at that time. Motion was made to approved a deed for above lot to Carol MacDonald
Motion to approve by: RS Second by: MC Vote: 5-0-0

9. Cemetery buy-back requests, if any: none

10. Other business that may come before the Cemetery Commission that could not have been reasonably anticipated pursuant to MA Open Meeting Law:

- Lynne Martin indicated that due to work load plans on resigning after the November Cemetery Commission Meeting. The Commission recognized and thanked her the historical knowledge and extensive contributions to the Commission over the years

11. Review of action items: Commission will finalize presentation on Alternative and Emerging Disposition Options and then post on Cemetery Commission site as a reference.

12. Date and location of next regular meeting: November 8, 2023 Provincetown Town Hall, Caucus Rm

13. Adjournment: 4:30 PM

Motion to approve by: RS Second by: MC Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted by: Robert Sweetman

Meeting of the Provincetown Cemetery Commission
November, 2, 2009

Provincetown Community Center

Members present

Richard Olson—Chair

Gregory Howe—vice Chair

Mark Collins—member

Astrid Berg—member

Dwayne Raymond Prickett—secretary

Others Present: Sharon Lynn: Town Manager, Alix Helalia ; town financial officer, Tony Lemme; DPW & Cemetery Superintendent, Tom Myers; Provincetown resident and abutter to the Winthrop St. Cemetery, Mr. Sebastian Aranjo; Provincetown resident, Mr. Richard Keating; Winthrop St. Cemetery volunteer

Meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by Chair, Richard Olsen.

The Commission immediately bypassed the agenda and entertained discussion with the Town Manager and Alix Helalia about funds belonging to the Provincetown Cemetery Commission.

Mr. Olson asked if the \$13,572.69 that is in the fund is available to us. Ms. Helalia said yes those funds are available and the monies can be used by the commission and the cemetery superintendent to buy needed replacement equipment. Then there was a discussion concerning the cost of engineering studies for the proposed two acres that is needed for the cemetery. Ms. Lynn said the estimates that had come in about those engineering costs were around \$7,000.00. It was proposed by the Chair that the estimates be taken to the special town meeting on Nov. 7th and that it be placed on the Town Warrant for that meeting. The members unanimously agreed and the motion was passed that the proposal for paying for the costs of engineering be on the Town Warrant for the STM.

Mr. Lemme then remarked to those present that leveling of the ground in question would begin the following week. Mr. Lemme also said that the cost of a new casket lowering device, which the cemetery needs, would be \$2,200.00. Mr. Howe motioned that we appropriate the funds to acquire the device. Members unanimously agree and the motion is passed.

There was further discussion about future possible equipment purchases.

Mr. Olson then moved the meeting back to the published agenda. The meeting minutes from the previous commission meeting were accepted by the members.

Mr. Howe suggested we table any discussion of the proposed columbarium until after the engineering of the new ground is done. The members agreed to this.

A report detailing the Cemetery receipts for F.Y. 7/1/08-6/30/09 was okayed by the commission.

Discussion of volunteer work done by Mr. Keating in the Winthrop Street Cemetery ensued. Mr. Olsen showed a Cape Cod Times article that had appeared that day to the members, which was relevant to the clean up that had occurred at Winthrop Street.

Mr. Keating informed the commission that his work in the Winthrop Street Cemetery was completed and that he was relocating to Vermont. Mr. Keating then presented a report to the commission that was prepared by a man named Salvador R. Vasques III, which details stones in the Winthrop St. Cemetery. Mr. Raymond-Prickett said he would make copies of the report and distribute them to the members.

The commission then agreed to okay the request of Edith Wood to transfer a plot to Carol McDonald.

Mr. Lemme was then officially appointed by a unanimous vote as the Provincetown Cemetery Superintendent.

Mr. Myer stated that as an abutter to the Winthrop St. Cemetery, he would like to continue the work of Mr. Keating. There was discussion of perhaps enticing Americorps to come back into the picture and assist with the maintenance of Winthrop St. because it is a "constant maintenance" situation. There was discussion of using approved chemicals to retard any re-growth of certain varieties of trees that have been cut to stumps. This is necessary because of the root spread of certain varieties of trees.

Mr. Lemme informed the commission that the acquisition of 1 & 1/4 acre would make the Provincetown Cemetery viable for around 30 years. He also mentioned that careful thought should be put into any planting of trees in the proposed new area because of root base spread.

Mr. Olsen set the date for the next meeting to be December 14, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the community center.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Submitted by Dwayne Raymond-Prickett
Secretary, Provincetown Cemetery Commission

Elizabeth Wood
PO Box 5160
Gulfport, FL 33737
727-344-4472

October 7, 2009

Richard Olson
10 Commercial Street
Provincetown, MA 02657

Dear Richard,

I would like to gift my cemetery lot #123 to Carol MacDonald. Wendy Kincaid, my deceased partner, and I are going to be scattered. Enclosed is a copy of the Cemetery Easement.

Carol MacDonald is an asset to the Provincetown community. She is the President of CASAS, the Carrie A. Seamen Animal Shelter. She works very hard to rescue and care for unwanted and stray cats and dogs and raises money for the shelter and spaying and neutering. Before retiring Carol worked at Post Office where her partner, Marsha Sirota, still works. Her mother, Mel Kirchhoff, 4 Thistlemore Way, has been active in the community.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Wood

CC: Carol MacDonald

Richard B. Olson
Delft Haven I
10 Commercial Street
Provincetown, MA 02657



Nov. 6, 2009

Dear Elizabeth Wood,

You will be happy to know that at its meeting on Nov. 2, the Cemetery Commission approved your request to transfer your lot #123 to our well loved townswoman, Carol MacDonald.

I suggest that you contact our Cemetery Superintendent, Anthony Lemme (Buildings & Grounds, 26 Alden Street) to get the paperwork put in place. Any way I can facilitate this, please let me know.

With all good wishes,

Richard Olson

copies To: Carol Mac Donald ✓

Tony Lemme