

Minutes
Provincetown Cemetery Commission
September 7, 2010

Present: Richard Olson, Chair, Gregory Howe, Mark Collins, Tom Myers, and Sebastian Araujo [Alt.]

Absent: Astrid Berg

Also attending: David Gardner, Asst. Town Manager, Tony Lemme, Cemetery Supt., and engineering consultant, Billy Rogers.

The meeting convened at 2:10pm

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Aug. 2 Meeting was postponed due to the absence of Ms. Berg and the Minutes.
2. Mr. Rogers reported the approval, with conditions, of our plans for cemetery expansion by the MA. Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. The conditions involve the demarcation of the limit of approved work by temporary fencing and upon completion, the installation of a split-rail fence to protect the habitat of the "Threatened" Eastern Spade foot Toad. We will gain 6 rows of 36 lots each, for a total of 216 burial lots. This is possible if the existing power line serving the Cemetery Office is relocated to go under the existing right of way from Alden St. This work has been estimated by one local electrical contractor to cost \$21,000, plus whatever NSTAR charges, which Mr. Rogers will try to ascertain. It was voted to pursue this plan and seek needed funds at the April Town meeting. Mr. Lemme proposes to go forward with the ground preparation in the meantime, and will extend the plot numbering. [He also reported that a new lowering device and other related items had now been acquired.

Great thanks were extended to Mr. Rogers for his successful pursuit [lately *pro bono*] of this outcome, and thanks, also to Mr. Howe for his participation in the process.

3. With respect to vulnerable/hazardous headstones, Mr. Lemme reported that he has spoken to a person at Nickerson Stonework, who also does work on his own, and that the job of straightening some 25 headstones in the Hamilton-Gifford Cemetery would cost approx. \$1,000. As this is a Public Safety issue, Mr. Olson will ask Sandy Turner if the funds could come from the DPW budget. Looking to the needs of the historic Winthrop St. Cemetery, Mr. Myers will talk to Brian Carlson about an application for CPA funds, and Mr. Gardner undertook to get us a copy of the new application form when it becomes available. Mr. Olson undertook to check with the Historical Commission on the subject, as well as restoring or supplementing the inscriptions on some of the oldest headstones.
4. The Dept. of Municipal Finance has not presented a new form for monthly reports or the reports for July and August. Mr. Gardner is arranging a conference call with Loren Goldberg, Esq., of Koppelman & Page, during our Oct. 4 meeting to discuss our questions about Cemetery funds.

5. There was no new information on the status of records for burial lots, which are being computerized, or on the form of certificates for the sale of lots.
6. Under other business, Mr. Olson reported that he had not heard back from Daniel Llata [producer-director of "13 Cemetery Road"] about the "Ghost Tours" that might pose liability risks when, and if, traversing Cemetery property after dark.

Mr. Olson also undertook to contact Town Treasurer Linda O'Brien about the possibility of Merrill Lynch accounting for the Perpetual Care Trust Fund on a fiscal year basis, to coincide with the Town's schedule, rather than the current calendar year basis.

7. The date of the next meeting was set for October 4, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Olson, Chmn.