

Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 5, 2009

Provincetown Community Center
44 Bradford St.
Provincetown MA 02657

Members Present:

Richard Olson—chair
Gregory Howe—vice chair
Astrid Berg
Dwayne Raymond Prickett—secretary

Meeting comes to order at 2:05pm

At the open, the members expressed continued concern about financials.

Mr. Olson asked if members knew any town folks who were accountants.

Mr. Howe and Ms. Berg suggested Steve Roderick.

Members agreed to deliberate about finding out if an accountant would like to join the Commission. Mr. Olson suggested he may contact Mr. Roderick.

Mr. How brought up the filming issue that was raised in the previous meeting. The members agreed that if there is no improper dealings in the cemetery the filming would be allowed. Mr. Prickett said that when the filming does occur he will be on “set” to insure proper behavior.

Discussion of the draft of letter for Town Report. Consensus by members is that there was no concise accounting involved with the cemetery care funds. Interest returns on the funds did not match what it should be as far as standard investments. (?)

Ms. Berg said as members we need to know what type of account the cemetery funds are in –we have, at present—a fund which delivers at a 1% rate.

Mr. Olson said Mr. Gately from the funeral home was going to offer input on monies and fees but no one has, as yet returned his calls.

Mr. Howe moved Mr. Olson to take report to Town Hall for publication in town report. Members agreed.

Mr. Howe suggested mates should, in review, be raised to \$50.00 for ashes and \$100.00 for graves as far as the perpetual care fund is concerned. The “lot” money goes to the general care fund and the additional amounts should go to the perpetual care fund. It was agreed that there should be another line on the form for detailing either \$50.00 or \$100.00 per burial to the perpetual care fund.

Mr. Howe suggested that if we’ve run along for a decade without a delineated perpetual care fund amount per burial then perhaps the town owes the fund money?

Mr. Olson says the cemetery funds are, in essence, a “rainy day” fund as maintenance is handled by General Funds.

@ 2:30 Ms. Berg left the meeting.

Mr. Olson said principle is there--\$200,000.00 but other funds for 10-14 years are not.

Mr. Howe asked if Mr. Olson has found out from Sandy Turner anything about the how's and why's of purchasing new burial equipment.

Mr. Olson said that he had not as of yet but would indeed find out the details about any purchases for the care of the grounds.

Mr. Prickett motioned to submit Mr. Olson's report to the town.

Members agreed to this motion.

Members also agreed that getting clarification about all funds concerned is most important for the commission and that the commission will persevere to get all facts about funds.

It is suggested the next meeting of the Cemetery Commission will be March 2, 2009 in the Community Center rooms.

Meeting adjourns at 2:40 pm