

Cemetery Commission Minutes
May 4, 2009
Meeting of the Provincetown Cemetery Commission
Held at the Provincetown Community Center

All members present
Richard Olson—Chair
Gregory Howe—Vice-Chair
Dwayne Raymond-Prickett—Secretary
Astrid Berg
Mark Collins

2::09 Mr. Olson called the meeting to order

Mr. Olson showed members the Cape Cod Times article, which appeared in the paper on May 3, about Cape town tax dollar expenditures and tax rates. He advised that all members read the article about tax burdens.

Other business:

It was noted by Mr. Olson that conditions of memorials and monuments and, specifically, Provincetown's Civil War memorial has not been addressed by Mr. van Derek who brought the issue before us at a previous meeting.

Sandy Turner has not called Mr. Olson back about cemetery equipment purchases.

Mr. Olson reads a letter from the banner by Mr. Bob Redic about dog walking in the cemetery where he writes that it is illegal. Mr. Olson noted to members that he wrote him back to thank him for writing the letter. Members stress that any and all dog walkers should be considerate.

A Banner story says next the next Provincetown town meeting will be held on 22 June, 2009. If we go forward with new rules and regulations we should have them in place for the regular town meeting in November since, by that time, we will be able to have held a meeting for public hearings on any fee or regulation changes/augmentations.. Members agree that new rules and regulations will be finished by the Autumn town meeting.

Mr. Howe suggested members formally adopt the revised version of the rules and regulations for the Provincetown Cemetery.

Members then turned to the printed meeting agenda.

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Item 1

Minutes approved for March and April to be submitted.

Item 2

Further discussion of investment of Cemetery Care Perpetual fund. Mr. Olson communicated with Ms. Ginny Parker at Merrill Lynch about them sending us, the Commission, statements about the fund as we are the sole custodians of that fund.

Members all agree that we have the right and are not out of line at requesting that statements come to us AS WELL AS the town. Mr. Olson will follow up with Linda O'Brien, town treasurer, to make sure

that this is all clear.

Item 3

DISCUSS ANY CHANGES TO CEMETERY RULES AND REGS.

--Mr. Howe had typed up and organized the rules and regulations for the cemetery commission.
Mr. Olson iterates that the aim is to make the rules and regulations clear for all to read.

General discussion of the rules ensued.

--Mr. Olson asked how we propose to handle notices and fees on days when the staff is off since Town is closed on Fridays.

---Mr. Howe suggested we let the DPW deal with this problem should it arise since they (in the Cemetery work shed) tend to collect and keep track of these payments, etc.

---PER DISCUSSION OF REGS About Fees and charges, Ch. 114 sec. 25 of state law covers the Perpetual care fund. WE as a commission, set the amount which is then agreed on and by the BOS. Commission decides we need a provision on managing the perpetual care fund. Mr. Collins suggests that Perpetual Care Trust fund be put in article 1 definitions along with a description of it and note that it is run by the Commission and falls under the rules and law of the Commonwealth in ADDITION TO those bylaws of the Town. So, that way, the general public will know exactly what the Perpetual Care fund is.

Mr. Howe said that on rare but serious occasions descendants of those buried in inactive cemeteries (such as the Winthrop Street Cemetery) can make an argument that they have the right to be cremated and interred there. So, Cemetery Commission reserves the right to specify the arrangements if indeed anyone wanted to be buried in the Winthrop St. Cemetery. Mr. Howe suggests that it is possible to inter 20-30 additional more. Consensus is that the commission will retain the right to oversee the Winthrop St. Cemetery.

Further General Discussion of the Rules and Regulations ensues as members fine-tune the final copy.

Mr. Olson asked that Mr. Howe contact Mr. Lemme as Mr. Olson is to be absent from town for two weeks. This is to inform him of the new rules and regulations and also to confer with him about the “depth of the base for headstones”—i.e. the concrete that holds them.

Mr. Olson closes the discussion about the rules and regulations and suggests we defer final vote on them until later since we’re proposing to have them submitted to town meeting in November.

Mr. Olson called on Members for any other business for this meeting.

Mr. Olson asks Mr. Collins to familiarize himself with what is going on with Civil War Monument details that came before us earlier and Mr. Collins agreed to follow up.

Mr. Collins affirms that he was indeed formally sworn in by Mr. Johnston.

Next meeting of the Cemetery Commission was set for first Monday of June, which is June 1 at the Community Center.

Members adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.

