

## MINUTES

### PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>. 2012

Present: Richard Olson, Chairman, Greg Howe, Mark Collins and Charles Westcott.

Absent: James Cox.

The meeting convened at 2 : 05pm.

- 1 The minutes of the January 3rd. 2012 meeting were approved.
  
2. Regarding the Alden Street Cemetery, Mr. Howe reported on the Slavitt MCC proposal to repair the 9 most damaged or at risk stones for a contact price of \$4,950. At under \$5,000 this should not need the Request for Proposal procedure, provided we are using "best business practices", and we believe that this requirement is met by the facts that we have already selected MCC for the Winthrop Street preservation project after a full and competitive RFP process and that they will already be in town with the necessary equipment and personnel to handle our urgent needs at Alden Street.

A problem arises in that the 9 stones of the MCC proposal do not include 2 stones that had fallen over from the sides of a vault mound and were taken into safety of the Cemetery garage by Tony Lemme, our Cemetery Superintendent. Mr. Howe suggested 2 of the stones in the MCC proposal to be postponed in favor of the 2 taken in. With that adjustment, it was voted to enter into the proposed MCC contract, with the \$4,950 to come from the Expendable Portion of the Perpetual Care Trust Fund, which by statute (Chapter 114, section 25 of the General Laws) and the opinion of Town Counsel, are funds which may be expended at the discretion of the Cemetery Commission, without needing Town Meeting or Board of Selectmen approval, for purposes authorized by the statute.

The 2 stones left out of the approved project, and the many more in need of attention, including the Civil War monument and the Klaas Wessels memorial site, are not to be neglected in our future planning.

As to the expansion of the Alden Street Cemetery, we still have the problem of Nstar facilitating the re-location of the power line serving the B & G's office and garage, and there is still the numbering of newly laid-out lots and, perhaps the naming of this newest section.

3. Regarding the Winthrop Street Cemetery preservation and restoration project, Mr. Howe reported that the competition for CPC funding in this current round of applications is intense ! He will attend the up-coming hearing on February 21<sup>st</sup>. (4:30pm. In the Grace Goveia Bldg.) to make our case, with emphasis that the momentum be maintained if our immediately past accomplishments with CPC funds are to have a lasting value.
4. As to mapping and record-keeping, there is a new map of the Winthrop Cemetery, with coordinates, copies of which were distributed. We still look forward to the definitive cyber-maps of the other, active, Town cemeteries.
5. Regarding Cemetery funds and accounts, and the reporting thereon, the Chairman could only report that this still a moving target (after four years ! ?). The reports we receive from the Town Treasurer seem to go in and out of focus. The Chairman will invite Dan Hoort, Director of Municipal Finance, to attend our next meeting.
6. Other Business :

Membership – The Commission accepted, with regret and with appreciation for his service, the resignation of Sebastian Araujo. (The Town Manager has appointed Rev. Jim Cox, former Alternate to full membership, and so we are in search of a new Alternate.)

Lot Buy-Backs – A request has been received for the Town to buy-back a double lot (\$1,000) from a couple who have moved far away, they think, for ever. Our only previous experience has been a single lot which we bought back on compassionate

grounds, from someone in dire need and far away. Tony Lemme says the Town has no prior experience in this area, but he believes the practice is that a lot un-used for fifty years reverts to the Town. The Chairman would note that various Town practices as to sales of lots over the years make this problematical. Sometimes there were deeds of lots, sometimes only receipts for the lot sale price, sometimes receipts that said "and to heirs and assigns" etc. "T" is a puzzlement." The consensus of the meeting seemed to be that we would be willing to do buy-backs, if only to keep lots off "Craigs List", but also to assure the availability of burial space for Town-persons into the future. The source of funds for any buy-back is still an issue; we "borrowed" the \$500 for the one buy-back from the Sale of Lots Fund, which, technically, can only be expended by vote of Town Meeting. Mr. Howe then urged we refer this whole problem to Town Counsel, and perhaps offer to Town Meeting an amendment to our Cemetery Rules and Regulations to address the Cemetery lot buy-back question.

The date for the next regular meeting was set for March 5<sup>th</sup>., 2012, and we still have a special meeting with the Board of Selectmen on February 13<sup>th</sup>. 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 2 : 50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Olson.  
Chairman and Secretary pro tem.