

MINUTES

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

JUNE 4, 2012

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

Absent: Mark Collins, James Cox and Richard Kelley, Alternate.

Also Attending: David Gardner, Asst. Town Mgr. and Lynn Martin, MIS.

The meeting convened at 2:10pm.

1. The minutes of the May 7, 2012 meeting were approved.
2. Status of Cemetery Funds and Accounts: Postponed due to the absence of Mr. Collins. However, it seems high time we began receiving reports from the Bartholomew concern regarding performance of the Perpetual Care Trust Fund.
3. Alden Street Cemetery: It appears that the power-line re-location has still not been connected by NStar. What will it take?

Mr. Gardner reported that the funds needed for new lot tags can come from unexpended previous appropriations for the expansion.

Regarding lot buy-backs, Mr. Gardener recommended that we amend our Rules and Regulations (subject to Town Meeting approval) to set out a policy. The funds could, we believe, come from the Sale of Lots Fund, when it is sufficiently replenished, and subject to appropriation by Town Meeting. The policy we evolve may want to take account of hardship cases.

The moratorium on sales of plots can now be lifted, which the Meeting approved. Mr. Olson will put out a press release or notice to the Banner.

Further to Cemetery Rules and Regulations, it was agreed that they might cover questions such as how many cremation remains may be interred in a single grave lot, even in addition to a coffin. Mr. Howe said even four should be permissible. There is also the question of whether we are allowing upright monuments on a single, 5' x 10' lots, as well as what height and width restrictions there should be. The intervening space for mowing equipment is the concern.

As to portions of this discussion it was noted that we should be in contact with Gately Funeral Home, perhaps through our member Jim Cox.

Clearly, in light of the new sale of lots, recording and financial turn-over forms, Section 16 of our Rules and Regulations needs to be revised.

Mr. Gardner suggested that the Commission might adopt "interim" Rules and Regulations, pending approval by Town Meeting.

The form of Deed of Sales of lots, with changes suggested by the Chairman, was approved, as was the Chairman's draft press release in the whole matter.

As to fallen stones, the nine that we have appropriated for to be repaired will be handled by the restorer in the fall. There was discussion of using the \$11,150 in a Unibank account, denominated as "Expendable" for repairs of other fallen or broken stones.

The Chairman undertook to arrange for retrieval of a broken stone, dating to 1829, from the Old Colony Tap.

As to creation of a "columbarium" to house cremated remains, and a set-aside of a portion of the new Alden Street area, further input is awaited.

4. Winthrop Street Restoration: Mr. Howe emphasized the importance of implementing the "Do's and Don'ts" section of Martha Lyon's final report – and of keeping them implemented.

5. Mapping and record keeping: discussed in item 3.
6. Smallpox Cemetery Monument (for the Winthrop Street Cemetery): The Selectmen have authorized creation of a “Cemetery Gift Fund”, contributions to Which shall be tax-deductable and should be sent to the Municipal Finance Department at Town Hall. A proposed press release was approved, as was the idea of a “Steering Committee” to assist the project.
7. There was no other business.
8. Due to projected absences, no July meeting was planned and the next scheduled meeting will be August 6, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard. B. Olson
Chairman and Secretary pro-tem.