

MINUTES

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

OCTOBER 9, 2012

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

Absent: Mark Collins (excused) Richard Kelley (unexcused).

Also Attending: David Gardner, Asst. Town Mgr.,
Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk, and
Tony Lemme, Cemetery Superintendent.

The meeting convened at 2:00pm.

(These minutes treat agenda items in the order they appeared on the agenda, and not necessarily in the order they were discussed).

1. The minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2012, were approved With minor amendments.
2. There were no Cemetery Plot Sales to be approved.
3. Alden Street Expansion Project :
 - (a) The Nstar bill for the power line re-location has still not been received, so we do not know how much of the Town's \$26,000 appropriation remains available, possibly for the columbarium project. Toward that project \$5,000 has already been committed for a planning study by Martha Lyon. We also have about \$1,000 due to Billy Rogers and some amount (we still need to ascertain) for lot markers.

(b) As to fallen and endangered stones in the previously developed Alden Street Cemetery (and also Hamilton and Gifford on the other side of Cemetery Road) we have ascertained that the \$11,500 sitting off in a Unibank account can be used for repair, and since it is described as “Perpetual Care-Expendable”, needs no Town Meeting appropriation. A contract has been signed with MCC to repair the nine most damaged stones, at a cost of \$4,950.

4. Columbarium : The contract with Martha Lyon for a study has been signed, and she has been over the ground with Mssrs. Olson and Howe. They discussed a single above-ground monument, perhaps in the East Northeast corner of our available property, or else in the form of individual in-ground spaces, 24”x24” apiece, along the existing unpaved side roads (we would term them “avenues”). Cost of the latter would be less than half the former. We should await Martha’s report, and should probably hold a public hearing.
5. Winthrop Street Cemetery Restoration Project :

Three proposals for Project #2 have been received and the Steering Committee has issued its report that it finds MCC and Aegis about equal in qualifications and responsiveness to the RFP, with Colonial Stone “a far third.” They are a stone repairer and not a “professional conservator.” The price proposals are in the hands off the Town Manager, who, as Procurement Officer, has the decision in her hands.

(Subsequent developments : Mr. Olson sat with Sharon Lynn as she opened the price proposals. MCC was \$40,000; Colonial Stone was \$30,291; and Aegis was \$74,400. The Town Manager, taking account of the Steering Committee’s report, decided to make the award to MCC.

Subsequent to that, we are advised that Colonial Stone has protested to the AG’s office (no copy to us) and the AG’s office has ordered (no copy to us) that the project be put out to bid – not Request for

Proposal – no legal basis averred – all as of 10/22/12. Mr. Olson is attempting to confer with our Town Manager.)

(Setting all this aside, Mr. Olson still has a perplexity as to whether the 93 stones that are the subject of RFP are net of the eleven stones that he understands were restored by MCC as part of Project #1.)

With respect to application for a further (3rd.) CPC grant, Mr. Olson is working on it toward the November 1, filing deadline, having in mind combining Projects 3 and 4 as outlined in the Martha Lyon Master Conservation Plan.

As to the \$3,750 or so in a Unibank account entitled “Winthrop Street”, Mark Collins has reported that that should be immediately available for Winthrop Street Cemetery purposes.

As to the proposed Smallpox Memorial, we await cost estimates for the possible design suggested – either a granite block with a plaque or a flat top surface or a large rough hewn rock with a plaque on the face of it. Mr. Cox is pursuing. Fund raising should ensue.

6. Amendments to Cemetery Rules and Regulations :

(a) With respect to lot buy-backs, note that Article 8 of the Warrant for the October 29 Special Town Meeting authorizes use of \$2,000 from the Sale of Lots Fund for the purpose.

(b) Some consensus that nothing need be added concerning deposits of moneys from Sale of Lots, Chairman reserves his view.

(c) Re Columbarium – deferred until meeting with Martha Lyon and receiving her report. Must also wait for Billy Rogers survey report.

(d) Dimensions of lot's etc. – The Chairman would appreciate someone's outline of our conclusions. Monuments may not exceed 30" in width nor 28" in height and must be centered on lots; we do not permit over and under burials in lots; and up to three cremated remains may be placed in a lot – that much is clearly decided.

For other thoughts, see Greg Howe's memo accompanying these minutes.

7. Proposed above-ground interment: The request of Earl Kendall regarding the remains of his late husband, John Gardener has wide support in the community and appears to be allowed by Article 10 of our Rules and Regulations. It would appear to require two lots to accommodate, and to be subject to the current mapping process, subject to all of which the request was approved.
8. Membership changes : Mr. Westcott has expressed a wish to move into position as Alternate, and suggests Bill Gately be urged to apply for the full time position. It was voted to ask Mr. Gately to step up and apply (to the Town Manager).

The current Alternate has never attended a meeting. It was pointed out, however, that the rule on three un-excused absences vacating the position requires that those absences be noted as un-excused in the minutes. They will be, beginning with these minutes.

9. Other Business:

“Natural Burial” – Colin Brown made an appearance on behalf of this Concept, (also known as “Green Burial”) and circulated a memo, copy of which is attached. Tony Lemme expressed his opinion and we need to consult Town Counsel as well as Brian Carlson and the Board of Health. Bill Gately may also have some insight.

There was also discussion with Doug Johnstone about creation of a brochure to provide to prospective lot purchasers.

10. The next meeting is set for Monday, November 5, at 2:00 pm.
11. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard B. Olson, Chairman
and Secretary pro tem.