

MINUTES

PROVINCETOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

APRIL 2ND., 2012

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

Absent: James Cox.

Also Present: David Gardner, Asst. Town Manager and Lynn Martin, MIS.

The Meeting convened at 2:00pm.

1. The minutes of the March 5th. 2012 meeting were approved as amended.
2. Alden Street Cemetery : Reported that the re-location of the power line to facilitate the expansion is complete, including NStar's connection to their pole of choice. We need to find out how much of the appropriation remains unexpended.

The contract with Slavitt MCC for \$4,950 to repair nine most at-risk stones has been signed by the Town and sent back.

Regarding metal lot tags for the expansion section, Mr. Olson reported that he has not heard back from Town Hall about estimated cost. Mr. Howe questioned the need for same given the precise cyber-mapping that the MIS has accomplished.

2.

Regarding a lot buy-back policy, Mr. Gardner has suggested we ask Town Meeting to authorize expenditure of \$2,000 or so annually for the purpose, to come from the Sale of Lots Fund (once we re-generate a balance therein).

As to the status of our moratorium on lot sales, now that we have been able to lay-out some 200 new lots and have discovered some 50 unsold existing lots, the consensus is that we can freely sell from the 50 (and the Sale of Lots Fund needs the revenue) but, on the advice of Ms. Martin, we should hold off on the 200 new lots. In any case, however, we should hold off any publicizing until the projected new system for handling lot sales, issuing ownership of lot documents and receiving payments at the Town Clerk's office, rather than at the B & G garage, is in place.

It appears that the over-all data base is not yet in place, and Mr. Olson suggested that it would be helpful to have a single cyber-map showing all of the still active cemetery portions together and on a consistent scale.

Mr. Olson expressed the belief that we have already approved a proposed form of sale document / ownership certificate, and a form of receipt / turn-over sheet is already in use. It might be helpful to have Cemetery Superintendant Tony Lemme and Suzi Fults of the Town Clerk's Office join us at our next meeting so that a smooth system can be got up and running at the earliest.

Mr. Howe noted that, for additional paperwork, we should also have a permanent record of death certificates and/or burial transit permits at the Town Clerk's Office. As with much else, the ball is in Ms. Martin's court. It was noted that burial permits are issued by Brian Carlson, Health Affairs Manager. David Gardner will help to regularize all future procedures and record keeping, and it was urged that information on our requirements and procedures be made publicly available on the Town's website

Tragically, it was reported that in the course of the power-line re-location the remains of an infant were discovered. Investigation is under way by the Medical Examiner's Office.

3. Winthrop Street Cemetery preservation and restoration project : Mr. Howe reminded us that the \$40,000 CPC grant application is on the agenda for Town Meeting (it was approved) and that the RFP process will need to be repeated before we can award a contract for the further stonework. The ATM warrant also contains an anti-herbicide article that concerns us (and it passed).

Mr. Howe also noted that the plan for further work produced by Martha Lyon speaks of replacing existing signage, which he thinks is inadvisable.

4. The subject of mapping and record-keeping had been exhaustively discussed under Agenda item 2.
5. There was nothing to report on the status of Cemetery funds and accounts, but Mr. Olson and Mr. Collins will pursue the subject with Dan Hoort once Town Meeting is behind us.
6. Under Other Business, the Chairman circulated copies of an opinion piece by Dennis Rhodes, published in the Provincetown Banner and also in the Cape Cod Times under the title "Provincetown's `forgotten souls'", recalling the smallpox epidemics that once ravaged this town and the fact that the cemetery for victims which is now in a remote section of National Seashore land, then contrasting the treatment accorded these victims with the response of the community to the modern AIDS epidemic, and recommending that we consider a monument somewhere in our currently active cemeteries to remember these "forgotten souls". Great interest was

expressed and the Chairman will undertake a follow-up. Fundraising and 501(c)(3) questions were discussed.

(Though not discussed, we must also inquire as to the status of investment of our Perpetual Care Trust Fund in light of the withdrawal of Merrill Lynch from the business.)

7. The date for the next regular meeting was set for May 7th, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Olson,
Chairman and Secretary pro tem.