



City of Gloucester

City-owned Cemeteries Advisory Committee

Minutes

January 1, 2021

Zoom Meeting facilitated by the City of Gloucester,  
MA 5:30pm-7:00pm

CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA  
2021 FEB 22 AM 8:37

Cemeteries Advisory Committee | January 12th | 5:30 PM

Join from Computer, Smart Device: <https://gloucester-ma.gov.zoom.us/j/86187463030>

Join via Phone: +1 (312) 626-6799, Alternate: +1 (346) 248-7799

Meeting ID: 861 8746 3030

Please visit <http://gloucester-ma.gov/remote-public-meetings> for instructions and guidance on how to join a remote meeting

Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 25 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation to the greatest extent possible. The public may not physically attend this meeting, but every effort will be made to all the public to view and listen to the meeting in real time.

Meeting began 5:30

Present: Committee Members, Sandy Barry, Christine Maney, Carol Kelly. DPW head Mike Hale.

1. Review and acceptance of December 8, 2020 minutes.
2. Introduction of new CCAC member, Maureen Vallis. Maureen was attending the City Council meeting and so was not present.
3. Update on current status of "adopters" of city cemeteries. Discussion on changing meaning of "adoption". Presently there really aren't any volunteer citizens maintaining cemeteries except for the Magnolia Historical Society which beautifully maintains Magnolia Point.

Langford Cemetery (32-34 Langsford St) – Carroll Steele Insurance. Left a message, no call back yet.

Magnolia Point Cemetery (61 Magnolia Ave) – Magnolia Historical Society. Left a message, no call back yet.

Sumner Street Cemetery (42 Sumner St) – Jordan and Shire Firestone in honor of Andrew and Harriett Nutton. No contact information available.

Cove Hill Cemetery (1052R Washington St) – Walter and Joyce McGrath have retired from their long maintenance. The cemetery has been added to the mowing rotation.

Bray Cemetery (379 Essex Ave) – Roger Owen Davis (DOD July 2002) Mr. Davis is dead.

4. Update on ownership of Prospect Street Cemetery. Carol visited the cemetery and also contacted Mr. Adino from the AmVets. He did discuss with her that the AmVets had taken care of the property ever since they purchased the next-door property in the 1950's. But with their declining and aging membership they are no longer able to do this. He is a member of the Board of the AmVets and was very willing to discuss with the Board continuing to assist the City if the Cemetery is taken over as a neglected property. Discussion on the process of taking over the cemetery. Mike Hale will follow up with a discussion with the City Attorney and report back to us. Presently the Cemetery is full of nips and dog droppings (it's used as a neighborhood dog park!) Mike will follow up on this as well.
5. Update on gravestone loan form between West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational and the City (DPW). --- Chris Maney reported that the form we developed has been modified for W. Gloucester, checked with the City Attorney, and will be presented to the W.Gloucester church soon.
6. Update on Gloucester gravestone received from Rachel Meyer – this stone joined others in the secure storage within the DPW property. Discussion of our final goal – restore stones and return them to the cemetery from which they came. We should make a plan but need to begin with an inventory. Sandy and Carol agree to visit the DPW and get specific information and photos of all stones/stone fragments stored there. In February we can plan to discuss our actual plans for these stones, how to repair them and what's the best approach to this.
7. Update on signage for historical city cemeteries.
  - a) Discussion of metalwork gate or archway for historic city cemeteries, examples provided by Mike Hale  
Sandy: Sumner, FPBG, Bray  
Carol: Langsford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Parish  
Chris: Bay View, Cove Hill, Cherry Hill  
Richard & Kathy Clark: Clark

b) Signage

Discussion of design considerations that are appropriate both for historical and more recent cemeteries. Research should be done on Find-A-Grave website and other sources to find examples. Concerns for appropriate motifs, and period sensitivity. Questions for the City Archives....are there some designs that were in place? Questions for us – should they all be the same?

What information do we want to put on each sign – Greenbelt offers a nice model for general font/color/etc./framing. We could refer to what's been done and set uniform standard. Can the CAC come up with standard ?

What text goes with cemeteries...want to divvy up ...and come up with verbiage....Mike suggests we pick one, do it and see how we like it. FPBG is candidate for first sign.

Don't worry about font etc., decide what you want to say and let's see a proof and see how it looks. Sandy and Chris will get it ready. Include images and map. All for review before next month. QR codes....?? Mike will follow up with city connections re: QR codes.

8. Update DPW support in the GIS/GPS marking of our historic (inactive) cemeteries and GIS/GPS markings of the American Revolutionary War Veterans in historic cemeteries (start time: January 2021) -Mike Hale

Postponed until March....wait a bit and have one of the City Engineers take the lead on this. Start with some mock-ups etc.

9. Update DPW support access to the PR resources to help CCAC and Cemetery 400<sup>th</sup> with print publications. -Mike Hale

Postpone until March Chris sending some images of ideas she's come across.

10. Update on Fall Cemetery Supply DPW request. -Chris Maney is working with the DPW and all items have arrived. Some of it is being stored at the DPW due to temperature sensitivity.

11. Discuss the application for a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) grant which is administered by Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) . This grant is a state-funded 50% matching grant reimbursement program established in 1984 to support the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites listed in the State Register of Historic Places. Applicants must be a municipality or nonprofit organization. The program is administered in accordance with 950 CMR 73.00.

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcmppf/mppfidx.htm#appro> -Sandy is willing to explore the application and, if appropriate, write one for this year. There is a question about Perpetual Care money and our access to it to apply towards stone repair. Generally, each stone costs approximately \$200-250 to repair professionally. Sandy expects to be able to apply for \$5000.

12. Chris asking question for donations for tours....during 400<sup>th</sup>? Can we accept donations? Need to find out how this is managed. Chris will follow up. It is important to continue to keep separate the 400<sup>th</sup> Committee – on which we all also serve -- and this Cemeteries Advisory Committee.

*The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all item in fact may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

Adjourned 6:27.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Kelly