

19 September 2016 CAC Meeting Minutes
Gloucester Cemeteries Advisory Committee

Gloucester City Hall, 3rd floor conference room, 6:30 p.m.

Cemeteries Advisory Committee – Sandy Barry, Patti Amaral,
Beverly McKean

Visitors – Matt Murray, Richard Clark, Joe Orlando, Melissa Cox,
Jamie O’Hara, Mary Ellen Lepionka, Bob Whitmarsh

1. Introducing the new committee and review GCO, c. 6, Sec. 6-21 to 6-24 “City-Owned Cemeteries Advisory Committee. (February 17, 2015). The inventory was handed out at the meeting and is also at the bottom of the minutes.
 - a. We discussed Sec. 6-22 Composition, appointment and terms. “one non-voting advisory member who is engaged in either the funeral, monument, or florist business;”
 - i. Melissa Cox recommended we speak with Thomas Newhall at Pike Newell about joining our committee.
 - ii. Melissa recommended we speak with florist Maria Russell.
 - iii. Also speak to Mount Pleasant Memorials, across from Calvary cemetery.
2. We reviewed the cemetery inventory list given to us from DPW Mike Hale. We agreed that each of us should visit the cemeteries to assess the condition. The inventory was handed out at the meeting and is also at the bottom of the minutes. The priorities at this point have been First Parish Burial Ground and Clark but we need to also visit the other cemeteries to become familiar with them.
3. Schedule cemetery walkthroughs.
 - a. Prior to the CAC forming Sandy met with David Rhineland and we walked through the Universalist

- Burial Ground. This cemetery is in poor condition.
- b. Scheduled a Clark Cemetery walkthrough with Melissa Cox and Richard Clark for September 25 at 9:00. We agreed to walkthrough prior to the work party day, scheduled for Saturday October 1.
 - c. Prior to the CAC, Sandy met with Walter McGrath and he gave her the DVD talk he had recorded about Cove Hill Cemetery. This cemetery is in very good condition but is maintained by Walter.
4. We need to identify which groups are working in each of the cemeteries and make contact with them. It's important to know what they're doing and make sure we're communicating with them. Also, we need to make sure they're following proper process and procedure. Oak Grove and First Parish are National Historic Places and have additional restrictions.
 5. First Parish Burial Ground update and plan.
 - a. Ta Mara Conde, owner of Historic Gravestone Services, conducted the two day training on May 2016 with several volunteers including two CAC members; Sandy Barry and Beverly McKean.
 - b. Per Mary Ellen Lepionka people that restore stones have to apply for permit through Massachusetts Historical Commission. CAC will look into this process to ensure all groups are obeying the protocols.
 6. Clark Cemetery update and plan. There's a lack of funds available to the CAC to take on work in the cemeteries. We discussed how we would allocate or raise money. First we need to come up with cemetery priority lists the list below outlines some of the work in already identified and in some cases scheduled.
 - a. Richard Clark reported - the conservation agent Ken Whittaker suggested a wetlands survey, which comes with an estimated cost of \$500. Ken thinks the back half of Clark is wetlands which means we're limited in

- what we can do in getting rid of the Japanese knotweed.
- b. Joe Orlando has arranged a work party on Oct 1 it will involve Compass Rose, Joe Orlando, AJ Orlando (no relation), and several volunteers. The effort will focus on taking away the stumps and brush created during the last work party.
 - c. We will hold off on taking down more trees because there are concerns about which should be taken down. There was one neighbor that had some concerns although we don't know who complained.
 - d. Steve Leblanc is the ward councilor and we'd like him to attend and will make sure he's aware of the scheduled work.
 - e. Joe Orland will contact DPW about brush pickup and unlocking the gate.
 - f. After we know more about the wetlands there could be a New England Biolabs grant to get rid of the problematic Japanese knotweed. Other towns have applied a 5 year plan to this process and it looks very detailed and potentially expensive.
 - g. Check to see if there is any money in the Gloucester Fund. Contact, via email, was made with Barry Pett, but no reply at this time.
 - h. Matt Murray talked about the Belview cemetery endowment and there's a possibility we could follow this model. Matt was asked to get us more information on this for further discussion.
 - i. Mayor William Squillace appropriated funds that were originally allocated to the cemeteries. We will look more into this story to understand what happened.
7. Historical Commission relationship and summit meeting.
 8. DPW mowing and maintenance contracts.
 - a. Get the terms of the maintenance contracts and when they're up for renewal. Schedule a meeting with the DPW.

9. Plot Fees. The closed cemeteries aren't bringing in money anymore so we need to increase fees. List of questions to ask DPW at the new meeting.
 - a. Ask the DPW when the next RFP is due for the burial contractors. Find out what the contractors cover.
 - b. Ask DPW who is buried where and how they keep track.
 - c. Find out how much the catholic archdiocese charges for internments.
 - d. Find out what perpetual care covers.
 - e. Find out which cemeteries are still open for burials.
 - f. Cemetery located next to the Amvets. In 1902 it gifted to the city, but no record of accepting the gift. We wanted the Amvets to pick up the trash at that location.
10. Sandy will present a FPBG talk to the Daughters of the American Revolution. Richard Clark will talk about Clark cemetery which is scheduled for October 8, 2016
11. Other business

Next Regular Meeting: **Tuesday, October 18, 2016**, 6:30 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room, City Hall.

Handout Cemetery List

Street Number	Street Name	Owner's Name	Nhbd	Land Area in Acres
1052R	WASHINGTON ST	GLOUCESTER CITY OF	4G	0.50
23	LINCOLN ST	GLOUCESTER CITY OF	3D	7.45
379	ESSEX AV	GLOUCESTER CITY OF	3	0.25
401R	ESSEX AV	GLOUCESTER CITY OF	3	15.77
903	WASHINGTON ST	GLOUCESTER CITY OF	4F	1.15
34	LANGSFORD ST	GLOUCESTER CITY OF	4G	0.79
61	MAGNOLIA AV	GLOUCESTER CITY OF	3C	1.05
13	MARSH ST	GLOUCESTER CITY OF	4A	2.86
	THOMPSON ST	GLOUCESTER CITY OF	3D	0.49
94R	LANGSFORD ST	GLOUCESTER CITY OF	4G	10.10
104	LANGSFORD ST	ROCKPORT TOWN OF	4G	27.80
112	FERNALD ST	MT JACOB CEMETERY	3D	5.34

42	SUMNER ST	SUMNER ST CEMETERY	3D	0.56
108A	WESTERN AV	WASHINGTON CEMETERY	3	0.45
165	EASTERN AV	CATHOLIC CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF THE ARC	2	25.50
109	LEONARD ST	MT ADNAN CEMETERY ASSOC	4E	5.12
11	WESLEY ST	WESLEYAN CEMETERY	4B	0.71
17	WESLEY ST	WESLEYAN CEMETERY	4B	1.17
	MT PLEASANT AV	MT PLEASANT CEMETERY ASSOC	2	4.04
41	POPLAR ST	CATHOLIC CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF THE ARC	4A	5.43
177	WASHINGTON ST	OAK GROVE CEMETARY	1	14.53
18	PROSPECT ST	HIGH STREET CEMETERY TRS	1	0.56
122R	CENTENNIAL AV	CLARKS CEMETERY & BRIDGE ST CE	1	2.51
26R	CHURCH ST	INDEP CHRISTIAN CHURCH UU GLOUCESTER	1	0.60
122R	CENTENNIAL AV	CLARKS CEMETERY	1	1.14

**Handout GCO, c. 6, Sec. 6-21 to 6-24 “City-Owned Cemeteries
Advisory Committee. (February 17, 2015)**