

Cemeteries Advisory Committee Minutes

18 October 2016 at 6:30 PM, City Hall 3rd floor conference room, Gloucester City Hall

Attendees –

CAC Sandy Barry, Patti Amaral, Beverly McKean

Visitor – GHC David Rhineland

- 1) The September minutes were reviewed and accepted.
- 2) Daughters of the American Revolution talk. On October 8 Sandy Barry presented a history on First Parish Burial Ground. Richard Clark presented a history on Clark Cemetery. We concluded the presentations with a tour of the cemeteries. The FPBG Power Point and PDF were distributed to other CAC members and the Gloucester Historical Commission.
- 3) The committee voted Beverly McKean as CAC chair and Sandy secretary.
- 4) On October 11th a presentation was given by the Gravestone Girls at the Sawyer Free library. Patti attended the talk and said she enjoyed it and found it very informative. They try to educate people about history through cemetery art. Cape Ann TV recorded the session under the title “Welcome to the Graveyard: the Gravestone Girls present a Virtual Tour of Gloucester Cemeteries”.
- 5) PRESERVE VETERANS’ HISTORY Grant status and scheduled meeting to review requirements with GHC Mary Ellen Lepionka on October 19 at 6 PM. Beverly and Sandy also met to review the data required for the grant. Beverly received a lot of files kept by Rachel Meyer and we found a lot of useful information on FPBG.
- 6) We decided it would be to put together a cemetery walkthrough list. This will help us verify the condition of each of the city owned cemeteries and assess if any action is required, short-term or long-term.
- 7) DPW Maintenance schedules of city-owned cemeteries. Sandy and Beverly met with Mike Hale the Director of Public works on October 17 and the meeting was very productive. The CAC reviewed the meeting notes, which are attached to these meeting notes.
- 8) Clark cleanup November 12 at 9 AM because the October date was rained out.
- 9) Status on Matt Murray joining CAC. Matt has been very busy with other business but expect him to attend our meetings in the future. We

will continue to look for other members to join us because of the work we need to accomplish.

- 10) Gloucester Fund Update and DAR donation \$300. We have a donation we haven't been able to deposit because can't get in touch with Barry Pett. We plan to try to get in touch with other Fund members.
- 11) Other Business
 - Beverly went to the Archives to introduce herself.
 - Beverly will contact James Pope and attend a website training.
 - Sandy added the CAC to the Cemetery Google Drive, which has been in place for 2 years. It has a wealth of data and materials, which we plan to use.

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Subject – Introduce CAC to Mike Hale the Director of Public Works

Date – October 17, 2016

Attendees – Mike Hale, CAC members Beverly McKean and Sandy Barry.

Refer back to this document for the open items.

1. Mike Hale offered monthly meeting with himself and CAC monthly even if it was a quick standup.
2. There's really only one open cemetery; Dollivers which means they have to eventually allocate space for a new one cemetery. There some room in Seaside but it would mostly hold cremations. Cherry Street is still open.
3. There's a new survey going on now to locate graves and take inventory.
4. He also recommended, as Melissa Cox did, we to talk to Tom at "Pike Newell" since he's easy to work with and makes himself available. Tom has agreed to a meeting after the holidays.
5. Internment costs haven't been increased mostly because it could be a burden on people paying for the graves. However, the cost to maintain cemeteries has increased so we're in a situation where we may have to increase them. Mark Cole did a comparison with neighboring towns. We have the results of the cost comparison study.
6. Prospect Street has no ownership.
7. Compass Rose provides mowing services, 4 to 6 times a year, for Bayview and FPBG. The contracts are negotiated yearly. The other city cemeteries are maintained more frequently
8. Clark needs a management plan. We discussed the Japanese knot weed since the way to get rid of it could take up to 5 years and be costly. We told him there's

- some question about wetlands and he said he will talk to Ken the conservation agent.
9. Once we establish a management plan Mike said to talk with the mayor about transferring some money from perpetual care funds to the cemetery fund. We would need to outline what we would use it for.
 10. We told him we're going to apply for a Veteran's grant as well as CPA money. We're working on the grant with Mary Ellen Lepionka since she has done many grants for the GHC.
 11. He agrees taking down the trees in Clark probably wasn't a good idea without going through the proper channels.
 12. He thinks we should send a quarterly or yearly summary report to the mayor to keep her in the loop.
 13. We brought up getting a couple of parking spaces for FPBG but he said it's difficult to tell where the graves are. There is a gentleman (Jim Aspersre?) who's office is on Pond Road who works for Pikes and Greeley funeral homes. He has used ground-penetrating radar.
 14. The gate will be open November 12 for the workday at Clark. Richard won't be there and he's asked CAC to assist if there are any questions.
 15. DPW can create any signs needed for the cemeteries; he uses Seaside Graphics. He thinks we should have a Historical context sign at the Historic cemeteries to talk about who's in there, significance etc... he's seen those kind of signs at other cemeteries. Also, invite the middle school or boy/girls scouts to get the younger people interested.
 16. We can go to the DPW anytime we want to conduct research or look at the books and maps they have there.