

Cemetery Advisory Committee
Minutes
6-26-2017
City Hall, 5 PM

Present: Sandy Barry, Patti Amaralt, Carol Kelly, David Rhineland and Beverly McKean. Bob Whitmarsh (Historical Comm) attended some of the meeting.

Meeting came to order at 5:15 PM

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1. Review May Minutes and expand on unfinished business from them.

#2 – Report on meeting with DPW and Veteran’s Services:

Carol and Beverly visited the DPW where they were made welcome and allowed to examine the cemetery records stored there. Robin Davis agreed to make a copy of her database for more in-depth examination.

Carol and Beverly visited the Veteran’s Services building and were made welcome by Lucia Amero and shown database (Quickbase) which she has developed over the years.

Carol met with Katelynn Vance re: making a tentative plan for going forward with pulling records together.

#7 – Suggested increase in fees for lots and burials. **Sandy** will write up the increases agreed upon in our May meeting and submit it to the DPW for consideration, with follow-up. \$500 to \$700 single plots, \$250 to \$300 for cremation.

#8 – Available lots in Clark’s and their availability. **Carol/Beverly** will find out how many empty lots in Clarks and if they can be sold in the future. Question -- if fees increased, will Clark's get into a maintenance cycle like FPBG?

#9 – Is AmVets an active cemetery? **Carol/Beveerly** will email Lucia Amero with these questions and follow up if she does not know the information.

May Minutes Moved and Accepted

2. **PTN/NPS** workshop (All day Friday and Saturday, June 16/17) was incredibly professional and participants (including the Committee) learned a lot plus an enormous amount of work was done in First Parish and Clark’s. Four monuments were resurrected in Clark’s. All the veteran’s tombstones were cleaned, others that leaned were straightened and broken tablets were repaired. When quizzed for skills Committee members feel competent with, simple stone/tablets straightening and cleaning were noted. The workshop was documented and **Sandy** will post it on the Committee’s public Google page.

3. CPA Grant presentation was June 20. All four members of the Committee attended. The CPA response was positive but we won't know if we'll receive any money until the fall.

4. Balance in Gloucester Fund: **David Rhineland** and **Beverly** will follow up with moneys put into Barry Pett's 501(c)3 Gloucester Fund. The Google Drive FPBG budget spreadsheet says we have \$618.55 in the Gloucester Fund prior to \$300 from DAR. That means we should have a \$918.55 balance.

5. SHRAB grant: Sandy met with Mike Hale regarding the needed sand and fine pebbles (unavailable from the DPW resources). Minxie and Jim will be owed \$7000 for the SHRAB grant. \$6326 from the SHRAB grant. \$675 remains and could come from the Pett fund.

Minxie and Jim Fannin will be working in First Parish and Clark's on June 28, 29 and 30th.

6. Budget: We have no historical information about Cemetery budgets. \$2500 seemed like a reasonable amount to request from the DPW. **Carol and Beverly** will set up a meeting with Mike Hale to discuss the feasibility of this. This year We have spent -- \$100 on 2 gallons of D/2 (Hoped for Awesome Gloucester grant for reimbursement) Battery operated weed (nylon) wacker to get close to delicate stones.

7. **Sandy** will write report for the DPW re: Japanese knotweed and sumac weeds. She will send a draft copy past the Committee before submitting it.

8. DPW meeting agenda items:

--How can we communicate best

--What can we learn about how much of the DPW budget the Cemeteries can utilize

--Is it possible to set up a permanent water source for First Parish?

-- Training or conferences?

-- Graffiti remover, Joint epoxy, stone jack

-- Paper ink and copy costs when we Create a Manual on restoring stones in FPBG and Clark's.

NEW BUSINESS

David will ask Karen Mullen about weedwhacker that is effective in the UU cemetery.

Carol suggested that the Cemetery Committee investigate a way to reach out to the schools for an educational connection.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25

No meeting in July. Next meeting Tuesday August 8. **Carol** will check to see if it's possible to move our meetings to the Veteran's Services building and still abide by Public Meeting Laws.