



Cemetery Advisory Committee

Minutes

September 12, 2017

Veteran's Services Building

12 Emerson Ave.

Gloucester

5:30-7:00 PM

Present:

Committee Members: Sandy Barry, Beverly McKean, Carol Kelly.

Guests: Richard Clark

1. August, 2017 minutes reviewed and accepted.
2. Report on progress: more SHRAB work was done August 28,29. Fannin-Lehner employee Leo also did some work. Fannin-Lehner keeps careful track of work before/after and will share that with us when it's finished. Work will continue sporadically. Work-in-kind required by the grant has already been completed.
3. Volunteers in the cemetery: Discussion of how to keep track of volunteer hours. Facebook page suggested since many people continue to put in many hours in the cemeteries. Richard Clark offered to share his form in Google Sheets doc. The Committee will investigate the best ways to set up webpage, etc. to communicate with the public and seek and organize volunteers. For October the DAR wants to visit First Parish and Langsford has been designated a cemetery that needs a cleaning if we can find a free weekend day on the calendar. The Committee would like to acknowledge the hard work of Kathy and Richard Clark, including 59 bags of knotweed in August and 13 bags of landscaping detritus, Jamie O'Hara's work in assisting in removal with heavily overgrown areas of sumac (invasive species) in Clark and First Parish and Pattie Amaral who led the effort in cutting of an invasive/damaged black cherry.

4. Cemetery Inventory is proceeding apace. Seaside and Langsford are done and others are scheduled. There are two reporting forms – a spreadsheet of basic information and a report form which will include photographs and a general evaluation to help us make plans for preservation.
5. Letter re: lot fee increases has been forwarded on by Mike Hale.
6. Japanese knotweed: First step is to get site plan with borders clarified as well as wetlands and wetland buffer zones which effect what kind of eradication can occur. Ken Whitaker and Bill Manuell (Wetlands and Land Management LLC) together have worked to create a report that clearly identifies the buffer zone of the wet zone in Clark cemetery. This is an essential beginning to planning knotweed eradication plan.
7. Grants: exploration of available grants e.g. Essex County Heritage (CAK) DAR (SB) Rotary (CAK) New England BioLabs (BM)
8. Concerned citizen wrote to City authorities with concern re: official digger. She emailed the Committee that she had not yet heard anything back.
9. Classroom connection -- In the works for October.

Other business

--National Grid gave access to their property allowing Bill Manuell (Wetlands and Land Management Inc) and Ken Whitaker on the property and they then created a way to identify the buffer zone of the wetland. This is important because it effects areas where certain treatments (e.g. Japanese knotweed eradication spray) can be areas. The report will end up with Ken Whitaker. The areas will be marked.

--Stairway from the Oval to Clark. Joe Orlando found a volunteer carpenter and Mike Hale is supplying materials. Joe is also organizing a major clean-up in Clark and First Parish.

--Historical commission suggested the Committee might want to produce more articles and publicity about the cemeteries and what's going on.

--Sandy Barry reported on meeting with the DPW.

--Mike Hale gave us an FPBG gate key for Rich Clark so he can get his truck and tools closer to Clarks

--He said the CAC mayor report can wait until November/December since he doesn't have to send DPW report in until then. He thinks we're doing a good job.

--He said he will be able to reimburse for the materials purchased to carry out the SHRAB grant. \$709.

-- DPW said the Committee is allowed to get buckets of larger stone at the facility during their working hours.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54

Next meeting Oct. 10, 2017

Respectfully submitted by Carol A. Kelly

