



City owned Cemeteries Advisory Committee
Minutes

September 10, 2019

Veteran's Services Building
12 Emerson Ave. Gloucester
5:30-7:00 PM

CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA
2019 DEC -5 PM 3:10

Present: Sandy Barry, Chris Maney, Carol Kelly
Guests: Melissa and Russell Hobbs, Kathy and Richard Clark

1. Review – August and July 2019 minutes: Voted and accepted.
2. Recap of the August 24, 25 NPS Workshop: Sandy has a list all FPBG and Clark's stones which were straightened/repaired/restored during the gravestone preservation workshop. The spreadsheet of stones that were worked on provides a record of a tremendous amount of work that was done and is already posted on our website. Of particular interest is how the Committee has become very skilled at straightening and repairing as a result of these three years of workshop. Skills gained in them, has led to a lot of work being done by Committee members and other volunteers such as the Hobbs family and the Clark family. Every year, this workshop means that more skills are added. The Committee wanted to extend special thanks to the DPW for all their support in supplies and tools. Without their help, none of this would be happening. 21 stones were repaired or straightened. The NPS has made a commitment to come back next year. Sandy will send a video thank you to all the participants.
3. Other work completed in the cemeteries including stone repair and organized clean-up: We need to organize how we keep track of stones that are worked on. We have a form. It might be useful to develop a spreadsheet of work that we plan on doing. Working on a single section makes the accomplishments more obvious.
4. Report Status - Loan Form: The form has been submitted to the City Attorney who has read it through and made suggestions which have now been incorporated into the form. This blank form has been shared with the DPW. In addition, forms specific to the Cape Ann Museum and to W. Gloucester church (both of which have stones from the cemeteries which they preserve and display) have been prepared and signed by Mike Hale at the DPW. They now need to be taken to those places and signed by them. The DPW is also going to organize a secure storage area for the other stones which have been gathered. The goal for the Committee is to return all stones to their proper place if they are in good enough condition.
 - a. Cape Ann Museum — Rev John White and John Lane

b. Moved to the DPW in 2019 from Veteran's office. Capt. James Davis 1715, Richard Yorke 1717 , Samuel Yorke 1718, York (son)

5. Review CAC's implementation of the DPW release form for those working or volunteering in/on city property: Chris has a copy of the City form but more specific for the CAC. Should be brought out and used for CAC sponsored projects.
6. Status report Dolliver project: Printing was paid for by the City. Three copies are available, one for City Archives, one for SFL, one for Cape Ann Museum. We plan to ask to be given time to speak to the City Council/Mayor about the work that was done. Carol will follow up on that. Carol will also contact James Pope about posting on Cemetery website.
7. Status - 400th celebration: Discussed a brochure, tours, walking tours. Five people from each century for whom we dig up a story – city cemeteries only. Chris is doing Bay View. We'll set some deadlines for winter work. For the celebration is anyone doing genealogy and shouldn't we connect with them. Maybe we could think about planning something for Trails and Sails. Richard Clark and Sandy Barry are both on the 400 committee.
8. Podcast ideas for Studio 1623: Historical society delivers them every other month. Are members of the Committee interested? Discussion followed (Each podcast should be approximately 20 minutes). Russell Hobbs may be interested in Revolutionary War soldiers.
9. Recap DPW meeting: Beverly McKean and Carol Kelly met with Mike Hale and discussed signage, stone storage and appreciation of continuing DPW support.
10. Signage for cemeteries: We need to decide what we want, get images, information and the DPW will get signs made. Wrought iron is a possibility. Signage should identify the cemetery visibly from the street, perhaps tell some information about the age of the cemetery etc. QR code or other link to information about cemeteries? Question: if there's a sign saying that a cemetery was "adopted" (e.g. Carroll Steele Insurance) should they be contacted to see if they still support maintenance. Maps to where people. Collect ideas for the next meeting.
- 11 . Status - FPBG Map lamination: On-going project. Chris will continue to follow-up.
12. Status – Revolutionary plaque -- Sons of The American Revolution: Carol will search for information in the minutes and send to Chris. Similar to plaque on boulder in Stagefort Park. "Gloucester Revolutionary War Soldiers and Sailors" and 50 names. Chris will work on it.

13. Repair supplies: 5010 Epoxy needed: Necessary to work with slate. Marble dust as well. Chris will go through DPW. Super shovels are requested for digging behind stones. Winter storage for more fragile materials needs to be planned.

14. Status - GPS stones in FPBG and post to Findagrave.com. Sandy is working on this. Meeting with the City is planned for the future.

15. Straighten 2 Freeman stones in Bray: Scheduled for Sept.

16. Thanks to the DPW for picking up with click/fix and clearing tree limbs. Question whether it's possible during the height of grass growing to schedule more mowing.

17. Two additional questions were raised for consideration.

a. When were the Parsons family moved to Oak Grove?

b. How is the Cemeteries Committee's work reported on to the City and is there a way to raise visibility?

Next monthly meeting starts at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, Veteran's Building, Emerson Ave. Gloucester, MA

Meeting adjourned 7:08

Respectfully submitted by Carol Kelly

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