



**City of Gloucester
City-owned Cemeteries Advisory Committee**

Meeting

November 12, 2019

Veterans Building

12 Emerson Ave.

5:30pm-7:00pm

2019 DEC 26 AM 8:02
CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA

Committee Members Present: Sandy Barry, Bev McKean, Patti Amaral, Chris Maney

1. September 2019 minutes were revised due to the duplication of information in item #4 and then were accepted. October 2019 minutes were accepted.
2. Joseph Gauthier was unable to attend the meeting to discuss the Sons of the American Revolution plaque for FPBG.
3. On October 22, 2019 a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the current work accomplished by the City-owned Cemeteries Advisory Committee (CCAC) was given to the Gloucester City Council by CCAC member Carol Kelly. CCAC's current accomplishments are listed in the City Council minutes, <https://gloucester-ma.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/11281>

Carol also explained to the City Council the Dolliver Transcription Project, which involved transcribing the nineteenth century handwritten recording of Gloucester gravestone inscriptions located in the city cemeteries. This original work was completed by William H. Dolliver between 1895-1899. The Dolliver Transcription Project was initiated and managed by Carol to its completion. Carol received a standing ovation which was well deserved for her outstanding accomplishment in preserving a piece of Gloucester's history and making it available digitally to the world. The three volumes of William H. Dolliver's cemetery inscriptions can be found digitally at <https://gloucester-ma.gov/index.aspx?NID=1015> Hard copies of this project are located at the Gloucester City Archives, Gloucester's Sawyer Free Library, and Cape Ann Museum. To view the CCAC City Council presentation go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7ipSqf9kH0>

4. The Gloucester Historical Commission is currently working on the submission of the National Register of Historical Places application for Fishermen's Rest Memorial in Beechbrook Cemetery, 401 Essex Ave, Gloucester, MA 01930 . The memorial is a tract of

land in Beechbrook Cemetery purchased by John Hays Hammond in 1911 for the burials of indigent Gloucester fishermen and sailors.

5. Sandy Barry is compiling an Excel file of all cemetery stones that were straighten/repared/cleaned in 2019. The outdoor restoration season ended November 3, 2019.
6. The two Freeman stones in Bray Cemetery, 379 Essex Ave, Gloucester, MA, have been pieced together with epoxy. Further work on these stones has been postpone till Spring 2020. Members of the Sunday Restoration Crew will be reaching out to Moss Rudley, Jon Appell, and/or Steve Haynes for advice concerning the final support structure for the Freeman stones.
7. CCAC is in the process of cataloging all cemetery stones that have been removed from city cemeteries in the interest of preservation. Removal of cemetery stones is prohibited under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 272, Section 73. To legally protect the cemetery stones and those in possession of a cemetery stone(s), a Chapter 272, Section 73 Exception Loan Form has been written and approved by the Gloucester City Attorney. Loan forms have been drawn up for Cape Ann Museum and West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational Church, United Church of Christ and are currently in the process of being completed.
8. CCAC is not directly affiliated with Gloucester's 400th celebration, but members of CCAC (Sandy Barry and Chris Maney) are on the 400th Cemetery Committee. Other CCAC members and cemetery volunteers want to help with the upcoming 400th cemetery activities which will focus on those citizens whose cemetery stones are still visible. The 400th cemetery activities are a) **authoring an informational booklet that will profile the lives of a number of Gloucester residents who are buried in specific cemeteries:** personal histories that will give the reader a sense of the wide variety of Gloucester people & their accomplishments. This would include soldiers and sailors dating back to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, from private to Generals; mothers who lost their children due to disease; free blacks; congressmen; artists/poets and even an opera singer (Emma Abbott, 1850-1891),
b) **guided historical tours of cemeteries in period dress:** in a burial ground a storyteller will portray and bring to life the stories of Gloucester citizens, c) **a self-guided tour of specific Gloucester cemeteries with maps.**

When discussing the mission of the 400th Cemetery Committee it was stated that the focus should be placed on education, advocacy, richness of history and the need for volunteer involvement.

Chris Maney, representing the 400th Cemetery Committee, will attend the November 16th public meeting for the 400th at Gloucester City Hall.

9. There was further discussion about signage for the city-owned cemeteries: a cemetery sign would display a map, brief history, QR codes (covering , for example, historical citizens, soldiers/sailors, sea captains, women of note, poets/artists, ordinary citizens and their contributions), and photos. The sign would be mounted on a kiosk and placed in the entrance of the cemetery.
10. Sandy Barry is cataloguing a set of Bruce Campbell's 35mm FPBG cemetery stone photos for an ongoing CCAC project, a Gloucester cemeteries database (DAM) that will eventually be available to the public digitally.
11. Russell Hobbs was not able to attend the meeting, therefore, there was no report on the boards for the FPBG laminated maps.
12. Compiling the GPS coordinates for cemetery stones in FPBG will be completed as a late winter or early Spring field project.
13. Next monthly meeting starts at 5:30pm on Tuesday, **December 10, 2019**, Gloucester Veterans Services, 12 Emerson Ave. Gloucester, MA 01930

Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM

Respectfully Submitted by Chris Maney

The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the mee6ng. 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.