

Final Approved Minutes of Meeting November 20, 2013

Location: 20 Libby Lane, Warren

In attendance: Pegee Malcolm, Charlotte Taylor, Dory Wagner, Judy Fardig, Michael Laferriere, Roger Guillemette, Alan Clarke, Robert Butler, Sally Small, Rick Whitesell, Henry Duquette, Evelyn Wheeler (via SKYPE), and David Bell.

Excused absences: Kim Ripoli, Tom O' Connell, Edna Kent, and RIHS representative

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm by Chair Pegee Malcolm

- Introduction of Draft Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2013

Draft minutes were approved 13-0.

- Update on Historic Cemetery Signs

Pegee e-mailed commissioners about the anticipated delay in getting historic cemetery signs made. The new signposts featuring the 2lb. construction may be available in the spring.

- Implementation of RIGL 44-3-63

Letters informing cities and towns of the approved legislation were sent on October 23. Initial responses questioned how the abatement would work. There was some negative feedback. The names and addresses of the contacts were saved for follow-up in a couple of months.

- Headstone Preservation Training

Pegee attended a 2-part workshop in Woodstock, CT, led by Jonathan Appell and other conservators. She distributed copies of the handouts related to the restoration of historic cemeteries that she received during the training course to commission members at the meeting.

- Cemetery Adoption Program

Michael suggested offering options of various commitment levels on the state's website. Pegee recommended that there be a contact to serve as an intermediate step between the website and actually adopting a cemetery. In Warwick, Pegee said the contact should be Sue Cabeceiras. For cities and towns without a commission he recommended a pilot program to connect would-be adopters or volunteers with cemeteries, by offering tasks such as taking pictures or getting GPS readings. Dory offered Exeter to participate in the pilot program.

Member Updates/Comments

Dory: Was contacted by volunteers, including people cleaning cemeteries. In Usquepaugh in South Kingston, a volunteer cleaned a large cemetery by the church. She previously received a call about a cemetery found in Arcadia on the CT border. It now needs to be approved by Exeter as a cemetery.

Bob: About a year ago SUVCW Camp 12, Battery B, obtained funding to repair, replace and rededicate damaged stones in WG 002. Comolli Granite has been working to repair 84 stones.

Rick: An Eagle Scout wanted to clean Union Cemetery. He had to get permission from the town council and plans to go ahead with the cleaning in the spring.

Henry: The Mencuccis discovered a new cemetery. It was determined that BU 500 was the same as SM 017 or 018. John Sterling doesn't remove numbers even if the cemeteries are duplicates. Henry worked with Edna obtaining GPS readings in Gloucester.

Michael: Sent out an e-mail with pictures of what he believed to be a cemetery in Hanton City. It turned out to be a corn crib on a pig farm. He will use URI/Greg's GPS readings as the standard on the website.

Evelyn (via SKYPE): Asked about the update from Sheldon Whitehouse's office and the financial responsibility of caring for veterans graves. She finished Barrington with BA 008 where she showed the new property owner the location of the cemetery on his property. She asked Michael to obtain GPS readings from any cemeteries he may come across while hiking.

Charlotte: Made a copy of pictures from the state farm cemetery on the south side of Rte. 37. Erosion in the SW corner extends into the cemetery causing grave markers to fall into the gully and caskets to be exposed. The state needs to address the problem. She will send a letter to the DOT facilities manager. The RI Historic Preservation & Heritage Conference will be in Warren in 2014.

Roger: A sign was made for TV 048 and will be placed on the burial mound. About 30 signs for Little Compton will be installed by Eagle Scouts. He is working with the town council president and town clerk to get repairs made in LC 012. He asked if the Mencuccis might be willing to show the public works dept. how to properly reset stones. A gothic headstone with no inscription was found, not near any recorded cemetery. Police inspected it and will send Roger the details. He also received a call from Woonsocket police who had a colonial headstone which belonged in the Old Common Burial Ground in Newport.

David: Split up the town of Tiverton into 5 areas to assess what needs to be done in the cemeteries. They will be looking for would-be cemetery adopters in a springtime ad in a local newspaper.

Alan: The new East Greenwich town commission will have 5 members instead of 7, so it will need to be re-written as a committee instead of a commission, delaying the start-up a few more weeks. An Eagle Scout is ready to get going on a project after Thanksgiving and there is another looking to take on a project. He found one lost cemetery.

Judy: Worked on sending the letters regarding RIGL 44-3-63 to RI towns and cities. She gave a signpost to the caretaker of the South Burial Ground in Warren. A gate for North Burial Ground in Warren was dug up but will need repairs. The cost to repair will be split.

Sally: (Discussion with Evelyn about Barrington update.)

Pegee: Warwick was listed with "Serve RI" to recruit volunteers. Their format has been changed to "Hands On" and current listings have become inactive. She has been working to get the listings reactivated. The Warwick commission has a footstone that belongs in Roger Williams Park cemetery. In 2016, stones in WK 026 will be laid flat and encased as part of the airport expansion no-impact zone.

The site [www.independantsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independantsector.org/volunteer_time) lists the value of volunteer time by state.

The next meeting will be April 16, 2014, in Johnston. Michael will reserve a meeting place. In June, the commission will meet in Little Compton and in September, Washington County.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19pm

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, secretary