

Minutes of Meeting September 17, 2014

Location: Warwick City Hall, 3275 Post Rd.

In attendance: Pegee Malcolm, Evelyn Wheeler, Michael Laferriere, Rick Whitesell, Charlotte Taylor, Sally Small, Judy Fardig, Alan Clarke, and David Bell

Excused absences: Bob Butler, Roger Guillemette, Kirsten Hammerstrom, Dory Wagner, Edna Kent, Jonathan Rascoe and Henry Duquette

Meeting called to order at 7:14 pm by Chair Pegee Malcolm

- Introduction of Draft Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2014

On a motion made by Judy, seconded by Alan, the commission voted unanimously to approve the draft minutes.

- Church Parking in Cemetery, North Kingstown

Pegee sent a letter to the town of North Kingstown asking to have church members prohibited from parking in the adjacent cemetery.

- Governor Medallions

Judy continues to work with the Governor's office on a project to ensure that all graves of deceased RI governors have the bronze medallion. The commissioners will help by checking the sites of governors buried in their local cemeteries. She is awaiting answers from the Governor's office on questions such as: Was the medallion a state mandate? Will the state pay for medallions for burials that occurred after the original ones were placed?

- Volunteers

Pegee received several phone calls from individuals in various locations looking to clean cemeteries for community service hours. She would like to post any planned cemetery clean-up events on Serve RI. Evelyn is working with a Brown University student who will be putting veteran's cards onto Find-A-Grave.

- GPS Update

Evelyn reports that Greg loaded the readings for the cemeteries that need to be confirmed onto a GPS unit. There are about 200 cemeteries to be found and more to be confirmed. They will be doing a presentation at the RIGS meeting in Rumford on Saturday.

- Updated Handbooks

In 2007, packets containing RIGL and other helpful information pertaining to historic cemeteries were distributed to cities and towns. The suggestion was made that updated information, including updated RIGL and the tax abatement (RIGL 44-3-63) letter, should be sent in a user-friendly guide to city and town halls, police departments, libraries and cemetery commissions. A sub-committee was proposed to take on this project but a vote cannot take place until it is placed on a meeting agenda.

- State Farm Annex Cemetery

Charlotte visited the state farm annex cemetery to view the gully where washouts have caused stones to topple. She reported the state has plans for temporary stabilization of the gully as well as a long-term plan. Pegee was contacted in the past by the Boys' Training School who was looking for a project for students. She is now working to set them up to clean the state farm annex cemetery which is adjacent to the training school grounds.

- Met School

The school has about 800 high school students in need of community service hours. They have transportation and chaperones and can do cemetery clean-ups and documentation. Ideas for potential projects can be given to Evelyn who will go with Pegee and Bruce to the school to give a presentation to the staff and students.

- Roger Williams Park Mausoleum Update

The last information Pegee heard was that the Mausoleum was still looking for cemeteries to accept bodies for burial. The structure is unsafe to enter to remove bodies. The Army Corps of Engineers is supposed to be making a plan.

- RI Historic Cemeteries Website

Michael will update the database with John Sterling's latest. Also, commission members' information will be updated. The Facebook site now has 500 "Likes"

Member Comments/Updates were reported to Pegee via email.

The next meeting will be November 19, 2014 at a location to be determined.

Charlotte made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Judy. Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, Secretary