

# Minutes of Meeting June 27, 2018

Location: Newport Public Library

In attendance: Pegee Malcolm, Jim Bessel, Bob Butler, Lew Keen, Walter Slocomb, Alan Clarke, Judy Fardig, David Bell, Russell DiNoto, and Caroline Wells

Excused absences: Dory Wagner, Alex LaForce, Michael Laferriere, Charlotte Taylor, Betty Mencucci, Edna Kent and Jennifer Galpern

Also in attendance: Charlene Butler, additional visitors (names unknown)

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by Pegee Malcolm, chair

- Introduction of April 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes

It was confirmed that the mausoleum near Roger Williams Park is actually in Cranston, not Providence as suggested in the meeting. Judy made a motion, seconded by Bob, to accept the Draft Minutes with the correction. The Draft Minutes were unanimously approved.

- Recognition of Evelyn Wheeler

There was a discussion on acknowledging Evelyn's many efforts towards historical cemetery preservation.

- Governor's Medallions Update

Judy reported that a bill to establish funding for new and replacement bronze medallions passed in the House and Senate and is waiting for the governor's signature.

- Flagging Update

Jim said that more than 66,000 flags were distributed to over 83 groups and individuals for placement in 600 cemeteries throughout the state. Only about 60% of cemeteries are being reached. Work continues on the website which is now active.

- Oakland Cemetery (CR 003)

Jim inquired about the ownership of Oakland, noting that he continues to receive phone calls from people complaining about the cemetery's unkempt condition and the lack of response by the owner.

- Public Forum

Pegee mentioned that she would like to have a limited 15 minute public forum at the end of the commission meetings. A suggestion was made to hold the forum at the beginning of the meeting in the event that visitors don't wish to stay for the meeting.

- Community Service Volunteers

Lew reported that a Roger Williams University program matches incoming freshmen with community service opportunities. He recommended checking the website for cemetery help.

Pegee reported that she had community service help for a cemetery in Warwick and in Cranston and that a man in Providence needs 50 hours of community service time.

Additional Member Comments – Other Updates have been submitted to Pegee via email

Pegee shared an invitation from Roger Guillemette to attend an Open House in Little Compton and

distributed copies of his newsletter.

Peggy was contacted by a high school senior from Massachusetts seeking permission to spend a night in a tent in a cemetery. She told him that while there was no law prohibiting it she wouldn't give approval.

A visitor to the meeting, Robert, who cleans headstones, was also interested in headstone repair and Peggy suggested he check with an expert before attempting any repairs. He noted that CY 044 needs a sign.

Another visitor reported that he had recently accepted responsibility for caring for LC 003. He was looking for flag holders recognizing veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Jim told him that he had a few generic markers available that were for veterans of all wars.

A newly found "lost" cemetery in Richmond is likely RD 015.

Alan Clarke noted that in a speech he delivered as the parade marshal of the 2018 East Greenwich Memorial Day Parade he talked about Jacob Campbell, who 235 years earlier in that same location was called upon to read aloud the treaty ending the American Revolution. Alan used the opportunity to encourage his audience to visit the local historic cemetery down the street where Jacob Campbell is buried.

David gave an update on cemetery cleanups in Tiverton.

Peggy mentioned that she included in her update information about a redevelopment grant to improve the area around the Apponaug roundabout, which would include a look-out area featuring information about the Major General George Sears Greene Lot (WK 023).

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm on a motion made by Bob and seconded by Alan.

The September 19 meeting is scheduled for the RI Veterans Cemetery in Exeter at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, Secretary