

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting November 16, 2011

RI Veterans Home, Bristol, RI

In attendance: Pegée Malcolm, Henry Duquette, Judith Fardig, Sally Small, Charlotte Taylor, Dory Wagner, Evelyn Wheeler, Bob Butler, Letty Champion, Rick Whitesell, Lester Hilton, Edna Kent, Alan Clarke, and David Kirchner

Excused absences: Gayle Waite, Lee Teverow and Roger Guillemette

Additional Attendees: Jacob Begin, intern, Maureen Buffi, secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm by Chair Pegée Malcolm

- Introduction of September 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Correction to Jacob's last name in the Additional Attendees section
Motion to accept minutes by Judith Fardig with a second by Letty Champion
14-0 to accept
- Status of Cemetery Signs

Orders placed April 19 and 28 were completed. Those ordered August 5 and 27 were not ready. Work had stopped pending DOT receiving grant payment. Pegée Malcolm has a list of completed signs. The grant specifies that signs must be a replacement and cannot be made for a recently found cemetery. Can only make signs for new ones after the others have been done. Anyone needing to order signs should see Pegée.
- Website Report by Henry Duquette

Attempts to contact Chris, web host, via e-mail or phone have been unsuccessful. Evelyn will try to contact him.

There may be trouble converting from Access to the new database. John Sterling has been away.
- Status of Veterans Cards

Evelyn Wheeler reports the cards are almost done. They will need double-checking and fine tuning. Henry has received all letters of the alphabet. She will send all cards completed so far to Henry.
- New Mailing Address for RIACHC: PO Box 41435, Providence, RI 02904

- The list of contacts for each city and town on the RIACHC website is being updated by Pegee Malcolm who is awaiting a contact update for Exeter. She is also working on the mandatory re-filing of Rules and Regulations.
- Pegee Malcolm reported a cemetery on Park Eve in Cranston, CR 36, was cleaned by a couple who did a great job. Also in Cranston, DOT is holding a sign for CR 37 in a backyard on Tennyson Rd, awaiting a re-dedication ceremony. Pegee will confirm that a ceremony will be okay with the homeowner and will contact Meri Kennedy to try to get some press for this event.

There was a re-dedication ceremony in November for Mineral Spring Cemetery in Pawtucket following a successful cleanup effort by Boy Scouts.

Member Updates/Comments

Henry Duquette reports continuing work at the Marshall Potter Cemetery on Howard Ave. A tripod will be required for 4 or 5 of the headstones. Also there needs to be a standardization of perpetual care. Regarding who owns a cemetery; frequently records will say the town owns while other records will list the name of cemetery as the owner.

There was a discussion of the use of D-2, a biological cleaning agent used to clean headstones. Henry Duquette reported excellent results when the stone was first wet and then the D-2 was applied and left for 5 minutes before rinsing. David Kirchner experienced mixed results using this product at the Veterans Cemetery.

Judith Fardig is working in the North Burial Ground. Volunteers are filling in holes and seeding.

Sally Small reports 3 people from FEMA came to Barrington to tell what cemetery storm damage will be paid for.

Charlotte Taylor received a call from a woman in Portsmouth who found a gravestone which turned out to be from Newport. It will be returned through the person in charge of Trees & Parks in Newport.

The annual RI Historic Preservation Conference will take place in April in Woonsocket.

Jacob Begin took pictures in South Burial Ground. Also gave a talk at the Bristol library on 18th century gravestones in Bristol, with an emphasis on preservation.

Evelyn Wheeler worked on inputting data from the St. Jean Baptiste cemetery in Warren onto an Excel spreadsheet.

Bob Butler reports that West Greenwich gave funds to buy a weed whacker. He will make presentations to schools in response to the hype about vampire graves.

Letty Champion finished the veteran's cards with Evelyn and doing lookups.

Rick Whitesell reports the Woonsocket Historical Society adopted the Arnold cemetery off East Orchard St. but nothing has been done due to repeated delays with the Boy Scout who volunteered to do the work. For additional volunteers Pegee suggested approaching courts, police stations and churches all of whom may have people looking for community service hours.

Lester Hilton received a call from a caretaker of several cemeteries about St. John's Episcopal cemetery which had a padlock on the gate. The caretaker needed to prepare a grave for a burial. Lester recommended contacting police or calling another Episcopal church to help. Also the state bought 200 acres off Tower Hill Rd. There was a cemetery in there that doesn't appear on the state map. The deputy planner will check other maps. Lester has an estimated GPS reading.

Edna Kent reported that a tree came down in the Winsor cemetery and destroyed 2 slate stones. Karen Sprague a stone-cutter who lives in Scituate, will repair the oldest one. She ordered a stone from England and copied the original one exactly. Not sure what to do the old stone, whether to return it to the Heritage Society or bury it next to the replacement. In the Paris Irons cemetery on Snake Hill Rd. several large trees were removed but some smaller ones are left to cut. "Do's & Don'ts" were put in local paper as well as an invitation to join in on cleanups. Also the Boy Scouts cleaned a cemetery next to Rte. 44 in Chepachet.

Alan Clarke is trying to find a cemetery that hasn't been seen in a while. In East Greenwich some trees that fell in a cemetery were picked up by people looking for firewood.

David Kirchner reports that the new grounds superintendent for a couple of cemeteries located in Middletown and Portsmouth, both managed by a firm in New Jersey, spent a couple hours meeting with the Veterans Cemetery grounds supervisor. He also noted that a monument at the Dunkin Donuts Center which had been removed for renovations has been placed at the Veterans Cemetery where it will be re-dedicated.

Pegee Malcolm reports that the Warwick Commission found a cemetery reported as lost on an overgrown lot which had been built on about 10 yrs. ago. Warwick also received a report on WK 26 from Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL). City council will be working with the airport to finalize a memorandum of understanding sometime in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The next meeting will be April 18, 2012 in West Greenwich.

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, Secretary