

Minutes of Meeting September 19, 2012

Exeter Public Library

In attendance: Pegée Malcolm, Letty Champion, Evelyn Wheeler, Lester Hilton, David Kirchner, Dory Wagner, Gayle Waite, Judith Fardig, Alan Clarke, Charlotte Taylor, Roger Guillemette, and Katherine Chansky

Excused absences: Sally Small, Henry Duquette, Edna Kent, Bob Butler, and Rick Whitesell

Additional Attendees: Julie Nathanson, Maureen Buffi, secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Pegée Malcolm

- Introduction of June 20, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Motion to accept minutes was made by Alan Clarke, seconded by Lester Hilton. Minutes were accepted 12-0.
- Pegée sent copies of the letter drafted and signed by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse as well as her own correspondence to various volunteer organizations in RI in order to help connect volunteers with groups doing cemetery work.
- Update on Website
Michael Laferriere will start at end of Sept. Ken gave him access to his files but many need to be updated before they could be put on website. He will update Pegée via e-mail on the details of the switchover from Ken's database.
- Update on Signs
Mike Hebert reported that DOT 100 Historic Cemetery signs made up but only about 50 sign posts available. If any towns can provide signposts it would be helpful. Pegée will notify members who have signs ready.
- Preserve RI Update
Henry and Pegée met with Val Talmage, director of Preserve RI, to discuss how a partnership between Preserve RI and RIACHC would be mutually beneficial. Preserve RI would be able to accept gifts as a sponsor from donors for use on RIACHC cemetery projects. A motion was made to vote on establishing a partnership. Members approved 12-0.
- Goals
Pegée would like to see every city and town in RI have an organization that addresses cemetery related issues and involves the community in cemetery projects

- Charlotte reported that DOT is working on a sidewalk project next to Grace Church cemetery which is close to the street. DOT is hiring an archaeologist (PAL) to monitor the project. Pegee proposed sending DOT a written statement notifying them that at the first signs of remains the work needs to stop. A motion was made and seconded to send the letter.

Member Updates/Comments

Charlotte Taylor: A cemetery with unmarked stones was found in Hopkinton on the Ramrod family farm. The town should now recognize it as a cemetery and include it on their plat map. The property owners are interested in any research on the cemetery.

Evelyn Wheeler: She continues to work with Greg on plotting GPS readings onto the state map. Scituate, Gloucester and Foster still need more GPS work. Volunteers can borrow GPS units from URI.

Judith Fardig: Students from Roger Williams University working in the North Burial Ground uncovered 4-5 stones. A student is interested in photographing stones at St. Mary's. Jacob sent photos he took to John Sterling.

Roger Guillemette: He and Letty corresponded with a dairy farmer in Portsmouth who was concerned that landscapers were encroaching on a cemetery. A high school student and the Historical Society cleaned slates in front of the Congregational Church. The Historical Society will fund a second round of treatment.

David Kirchner: The Veterans Cemetery will get a grant to realign and raise headstones. They are on a priority list to receive 2200 above-ground niches. The cemetery was asked to take all of the military burials from the mausoleum in Cranston and recently received the first reburial.

Dory Wagner: She worked with Evelyn in South Kingstown. She received an inquiry from a man in Richmond interested in cleaning a cemetery at a park and ride.

Lester Hilton: The Wilkinson cemetery had a couple of trees down, one very large. The church donated some money to clean and a professional tree outfit was hired. The Bates cemetery was cleaned by a community service worker who did a good job and will hopefully return to finish.

Alan Clarke: He has approximately 25 cemeteries left to find and prepare reports for in East Greenwich

Katherine Chansky: Julie Nathanson added photos to the cemetery database. Katherine plans to do a blogspot to let people know about the database which is accessible in several libraries throughout the state.

Letty Champion: She has been scouting for cemeteries without trees in North Kingstown so she can photograph them.

Gayle Waite: There was a rededication of Gen. George Thurston cemetery in Hopkinton on Sept. 16.

Henry Duquette (via e-mail to Pegee): The Mencuccis have been cleaning and resetting stones in BU 075. Work continues in BU 012

Bob Butler (via e-mail to Pegee): Has been working in several places.

Sally Small (via e-mail to Pegee): Helped people inquiring about Prince's Hill Cemetery.

Edna Kent (via e-mail to Pegee): Several volunteers cleaned cemeteries over the summer.

Pegee Malcolm: A wrought-iron gate was stolen from a cemetery on Cowesett Rd.in Warwick. The abutting property owner offered to donate a new gate. In Warwick some cemeteries were recently cleaned by volunteers. Brayton cemetery will also have a cleanup.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday the next regular meeting of RIACHC has been moved to Nov. 14. It will be held in the East Bay area with the exact location to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, Secretary