

Accepted Minutes of Meeting June 16, 2010

Atria Harborhill, East Greenwich

In attendance: Evelyn Wheeler, Judith Fardig, Sally Small, Letty Champion, Pegee Malcolm, Bruce MacGunnigle, Paul Robinson, Lee Teverow, David Kirchner

Excused absences: Edna Kent, Henry Duquette, Robert Butler

Meeting called to order at 7:13 pm by Chair Wheeler

Introduction of DRAFT Minutes from April 21, 2010: 9 -0 to accept minutes as written

Old Business

1. Website Committee: John Sterling here in July and he provided two possible dates for a meeting with the Website Committee – general consensus is that July 19th works for everyone
 - a. General discussion regarding the agenda of the meeting with John Sterling
 - b. Discussion regarding the Commission's hope to have a government agency host the website so that it has a permanent home and the Commission doesn't have to depend upon volunteers to operate it
2. Pegee Malcolm requested an update on the three locations that were the subject of GPR testing mentioned at the last meeting – Chair Wheeler reported that scrapings were not done, but at least one of the locations was very probably a cemetery

New Business

1. Member updates
 - a. Bruce MacGunnigle: EG #4 and #10 cleaned up; *"A Walking Tour of the Historic Village of East Greenwich Rhode Island"*, written by Bruce, was recently published and the Wine Street Cemetery is referenced in the book; introduced Alan Clarke who writes a column for the EG Pendulum and is on the board of Glenwood Cemetery and involved with EG Cemetery as well
 - b. David Kirchner: Eagle Scout project to build and install an walking trail informational kiosk across from the Admin Building is completed; Memorial Day service was well attended – Scouts and family of the National Guard put up 26,000 flags the Saturday before and the Job Corps took them all down in three hours; Every three years, the Federal Govt does a triennial review of state Veterans' cemeteries, and RI is close to the top level "Shrine Standard"; Grant money to hire outside assistance with headstone alignment, care and landscaping

- c. Evelyn Wheeler: GPS volunteers needed to complete Johnston, Richmond, Westerly, and the rest of Foster and Glocester with URI equipment – all coordinates are being reported to URI's GIS
 - d. Lee Teverow: Visited two libraries housing Sterling's database (West Warwick and AFGS) and provided information on the Commission Database vs. the Sterling Database – plans to schedule the other locations; Scheduling a genealogical workshop for librarians through the Office of Library Information Services which will include information on both versions
 - e. Paul Robinson: RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission is finishing up their survey of the Nipsachuck Hill and Swamp area in North Smithfield, which is believed to be the site of two King Philip's War battles – they are working together with 6 tribes and the descendants of the families that lived there during the War – public meeting will be held in October to discuss findings
 - f. Letty Champion: While doing research for the Colonial Newport book, they found stones in the Stevens shop and Quaker Meeting House that were replaced on the 12th
 - g. Judith Fardig: Scout Troop 25 did a great job cleaning out a cemetery in Warren and people who live nearby have offered to keep it up; DOT put up sign for #6; North Burial Ground sign has been restored and replaced
 - h. Sally Small: Further discussion of the Barton Cemetery in Warren – looking for volunteer title searchers to search for any additional references to burials/cemeteries in the area; RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission already recommended that an archaeological survey be done in the area of Barton Cemetery, and will reissue their recommendation; Barrington Prince's Hill Cemetery Columbarium completed and Open House scheduled for August 25th or 26th. Fannin Lehner Gravestone Restoration Consultants working during that week in Prince's Hill Cemetery and the public are invited to observe and take part.
 - i. Pegee Malcolm: Spoke with David Kirchner regarding the process for requesting flags for Memorial Day – form refinement may assist with preventing duplication of ordering of flags; Veteran information isn't always recorded/reported if the deceased is not buried in the Veterans' Cemetery; Warwick sign from EG cemetery has been located; West Warwick Cemetery Commission is meeting regularly; Coventry Cemetery Commission - #26 cleanup on the 26th from 8 - 12
 - j. Edna Kent (reported by Chair Wheeler): Burrillville – grant for new signs; Karin Sprague working on the headstone for Abigail Winsor for the Winsor Cemetery in Glocester
2. Nominating committee – nominations for September meeting – Pegee Malcolm, Paul Robinson, and Judith Fardig

3. Commission appointments expire September 2010 – sheet was circulated for members to indicate their interest in being reappointed. All, with the exception of Bruce MacGunnigle, indicated they were interested.
4. Bill 7857A: Passed the House, but wasn't voted on in the Senate – back to subcommittee
5. Meeting schedule for next year:

September 15th: Gloucester Historical Society

November 17th: Warwick – Buttonwoods Senior Center or City Hall

April 20th: Warren

June 15th: Middletown Police Station
6. Roger Williams Mausoleum update by Chair Wheeler: Lawyer found a funeral director who is willing to remove deceased, cremate, and reinter for a reasonable price
7. Judith Fardig discussed seeing multiple people on Facebook talking about cleaning up cemeteries incorrectly (using bleach to clean stones, etc...) – gave them appropriate information; Commission Website has the Do's and Don'ts for cleaning cemeteries, and AGS has publications as well that can be ordered for a fee
8. Oakland Cemetery cleanup: \$600 grant for materials and 2 dumpsters from Waste Management – 150 bags of leaves!
9. Questions regarding who "owns" a cemetery: Burrillville received a grant for signs, but representative from the Boy Scouts (unclear as to her role with the Boy Scouts) won't allow a sign to be put up; ownership of cemeteries has to be taken on a case by case basis and researched using deeds, etc...; Discussed possibility of utilizing Roger Williams law student internships to do title searches and right of way research

Bruce MacGunnigle made a motion to adjourn meeting, with a second by David Kirchner – meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

Respectfully submitted by Emily Corbett, Secretary

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