

## Minutes of Meeting April 20, 2016

Location: RI Veterans Home, Bristol

In attendance: Pegee Malcolm, Jonathan Rascoe, Evelyn Wheeler, Roger Guillemette, Michael Laferriere, Alan Clarke, Judy Fardig, Charlotte Taylor, Bob Butler, Dory Wagner.

Also in attendance: Charlene Butler, Bruce Frail, and Walter Slocomb.

Excused absences: Sally Small, David Bell, Edna Kent, Betty Mencucci, Alex LaForce and Rick Whitesell

Meeting called to order at 7:23pm by Pegee Malcolm

- Introduction of Draft Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2015

Evelyn made a motion, seconded by Bob, to accept the Draft Minutes. The Draft Minutes were unanimously approved.

- Flags for Veterans' Graves

Jonathan Rascoe and Bruce Frail made a presentation to the commission about plans to begin to streamline the distribution of flags for veterans' graves for Memorial Day. The plan will save the state money by coordinating the distribution of flags and avoiding redundant requests for flags. This coordination of effort will help to ensure that veteran's graves are not missed. Copies of "Flow of Management Levels – Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery" by Jonathan Rascoe & Staff and "Rhode Island Veteran Grave Flags" from Civil War Ancestor were distributed in the meeting.

The plan would involve the creation of a Veteran Grave Flag Committee made up of representatives of various groups who currently flag veterans' graves. The role of RIACHC would require a vote by members at a later meeting (must be posted on agenda).

- Cumberland 117

Pegee was notified by a property owner who found that the town hall has incorrect GPS coordinates, showing a cemetery as being on his property when it is actually located 3 lots down the road. Prospective buyers have a concern that there may actually be a cemetery there. Michael pointed out that the coordinates may not have come from the commission's website. Pegee wants to make sure that the town and website have accurate GPS readings.

- Duplicate Stones

Pegee was contacted about what to do with redundant stones. It was agreed that as long as stones were duplicates and if they were face down or had the lettering ground off, it shouldn't matter how the stones are used.

- RIACHC Hats and Vests

Dory brought in samples of embroidered hats and heatset vests that would identify the wearer as a RIACHC member and have the added benefit of improving visibility. Jonathan will check possible access to hats and vests.

- North Smithfield 027

Charlotte and Pegee were served papers to appear at a May 24 hearing concerning the dispute over the property and cemetery at Primrose Grange.

- GPS/GIS Update

Evelyn reports that the ARCGIS was updated this day. At this time there are 2 databases – one for public and the other for state offices such as DOT, DEM, RIACHC. There was also discussion about whether it is necessary to identify where a cemetery may have been relocated from. The commission felt that it would be useful information to leave on a map because sometimes it might be necessary to know where the burials had been. Pegee asked Evelyn to include the locations of suspected sites, those mistakenly thought to be cemetery sites and missing cemetery descriptions. Scituate and Glocester still need volunteers to confirm GPS coordinates of cemeteries. Michael volunteered for the watershed cemeteries in Scituate.

- Oakland Cemetery (CR 003)

Evelyn distributed copies of RIGL Title 23, Chapter 18 and asked members how they interpreted how this would apply to Oakland Cemetery where there have been numerous complaints concerning the management of this cemetery. The RI Cemetery Association and New England Cemetery will be discussing the issues.

- Johnston 062

PAL has been to the site of JN 062 by Home Depot and found “scalped” stones in a ring around the enclosure. PAL has been hired for delineation of the cemetery but not restoration.

Also in Johnston, the future site of Citizens Bank has a cemetery. It was suggested in the meeting that maybe Citizens could “adopt” the cemetery.

- Commission

Rick has indicated that he may leave the commission but has agreed to stay on for now to avoid creating a vacancy. Walter Slocumb was introduced as a possible replacement should Rick decide to leave. Walter is also interested in the Cranston Commission, as are several others recently.

- Cranston 020

Pegee will follow up on a call from someone who is concerned that the cemetery has disappeared.

Member Comments/Updates have been submitted to Pegee via email

The next meeting will be June 15, 2016 at a location to be determined, likely in Narragansett or West Greenwich.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm on a motion by Roger, seconded by Charlotte.

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, Secretary