

## Minutes of Meeting June 19, 2013

Location: RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, 150 Benefit St, Providence

In attendance: Pegee Malcolm, Evelyn Wheeler, Alan Clarke, Rick Whitesell, Charlotte Taylor, Tom O'Connell, Kirsten Hammerstrom, Sally Small, and Lester Hilton.

Excused absences: Dory Wagner, Bob Butler, Henry Duquette, Judy Fardig, Edna Kent, Roger Guillemette, Letty Champion and David Kirchner

Additional Attendees: Michael Laferriere, members of the Tiverton Historical Cemetery Commission and Maureen Buffi, secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Pegee Malcolm

- Introduction of Draft Meeting Minutes from April 17, 2013. On a motion by Tom O'Connell, seconded by Alan Clarke, the Draft minutes were approved 8-0 (one commissioner arrived after minutes were introduced).
- There is an interest in headstone repair training. Suggestions were made on organizations who offer workshops but no one was familiar with a certification program.
- Commission Reappointments  
In September the commissioner's appointments will end. Anyone who wishes to be reappointed must submit a letter of intent to Christine DiFilippo. Pegee will forward the address to the commission members. Lester and Letty will not seek reappointment.
- Members from the Tiverton Historical Cemeteries Commission presented a letter detailing an issue with TV #48. The question was posed if it would be possible to move the cemetery. Charlotte explained that it is an involved and expensive process. There is a possibility that all graves were already removed, leaving only a few fieldstone markers. She will check for old photos and make a site visit
- Alan Clarke presented an idea for an alternative to the standard Historical Cemetery sign which could be used if a landowner rejected the other. He distributed copies of the proposed design.
- Update on GPS Project  
Evelyn and Greg have a list of cemeteries needing to be found or confirmed. Evelyn distributed list for Providence County to Lester, Michael and Rick. She also gave a list of cemeteries she needed for Tiverton to the attendees.
- The Serve Rhode Island postings, which were about to expire, were extended for another year
- Implementation of RIGL 44-3-63

At the April meeting there was a discussion of sending a letter to towns asking them to enable the legislation previously passed by the state. Evelyn and Henry have written the letter but it will need to be voted on by the commission before it can be sent. Copies were distributed for review.

- Update on Airport Expansion

Pegee and Sue Cabeceiras met with the Airport Commission who report that the cemeteries will not be touched until 2016. In the Peter Freeman lot, the stones will be laid flat and encased in a protective covering. Descendants were contacted and approved the plan.

- Pegee and Alan met with Bill Sequino about starting an East Greenwich cemetery commission. Bill suggested that a new subdivision containing a cemetery should have a right-of-way granted to the nearest street. Commissioners suggested that, if possible, access should accommodate cleanup equipment

#### Member Updates/Comments

Evelyn: She and Dory found a cemetery in South Kingstown (SK 062) where the property owner wants to raise up the stones. An Eagle Scout is looking to take on a project. Evelyn is working on getting GPS readings for Scituate.

Alan: He is discouraged about the dwindling number of cleanup volunteers. He has about 5 more cemeteries to find.

Sally: Fannin–Lehner Restoration Consultants will be at Chapel Hill Cemetery in Barrington Aug 5 - 9.

Tom: People are locating cemeteries and Tom hopes to get GPS readings and physical descriptions.

Kirsten: RI Historical Society's library is very busy with genealogical researchers.

Rick: Asked if anyone knew about Griffin Rouse's project at St. Patrick's in Providence and about signs for Foster which they couldn't pick up.

Lester: Is concerned that the new deed for property sold behind St. John's Episcopal Church does not appear to include a right-of-way for the cemetery. He requested that a new deed be drawn up with a right-of-way having a similar traffic pattern to the existing one.

Michael Laferriere: Reported that the .GOV website and Ken's old website are consolidated into one new database: <http://rihistoriccemeteries.org>. The fee for the site is being donated by Michael. The next phase will make searches more efficient and will add more data. He would like to update directly from John's database. Recommendations about the site should be sent to Michael while corrections to data should go directly to John. The Facebook page has about 160 friends.

Judy: (via e-mail) At the North Burial Ground in Warren, repairs to a chain link fence were paid for by the town, two vandalized stones were repaired and she is hoping the front gates will be put up soon. She too is interested in a workshop for gravestone repair.

Henry: (via e-mail) A path cleared to the gate of BU 046 from the access road will allow materials to be brought in for headstone resetting and repairing. Betty Mencucci has been following up on poison ivy control in various cemeteries. Clearing continues in BU 075 and plans are being made for repairs in BU 012 and 065.

Dory: (via e-mail) Finishing up new sign installations in Exeter and waiting for next batch. She tracked down a couple of hard to find cemeteries in Exeter and Richmond to get GPS readings and organized cleanups in response to requests from volunteers. One in Richmond is being cleaned by a young man for community service hours. Dory plans to continue cleaning cemeteries in Washington County and to get GPS readings.

Pegee: Volunteers continue to do cleanups in Warwick. Cemeteries were flagged. Pegee was contacted by someone who wanted to clean a cemetery in N. Providence but she hasn't heard from them since. Of the 32 signs she received, about half have been installed.

Tiverton Historic Cemeteries Commission: Report that they're still cleaning cemeteries and had flagged.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, secretary