

Approved Minutes of Meeting November 20, 2019

Location: Wilbur House, Little Compton

In attendance: Pegee Malcolm, Walter Slocomb, Bob Butler, Joe Jordan, Lew Keen, Marjory O' Toole, Jim Bessell, Russ DiNoto, and Caroline Wells

Excused absences: Judy Fardig, Edna Kent, Betty Mencucci, Alexandra La Force, Charlotte Taylor, Christine MacWilliams, and Alan Clarke.

Also in attendance: Marcia Pratt and Robert Pratt

Meeting called to order at 6:55 pm by Pegee Malcolm, chair

- Introduction of September 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Bob and seconded by Lew to accept the draft minutes. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

- Topics, Issues and Goals for 2020

Lew distributed copies of "State of Rhode Island Historic Cemetery Initiative 2020". The document will be emailed to Representative Carson. Lew will update the commission later. Topics include:

- Accountability
- Funding
- Vandalism
- Potential future issues/concerns
- Desired products/actions

- Fundraising

Marjory shared her past experiences with community donations for local cemetery work. Pegee noted that for the state commission to be able to raise funds there would first have to be a vehicle in place to accept donations. Possibilities discussed in the past included Preserve RI or RI Preservation & Heritage Commission. This will be discussed later.

- State Farm Cemetery & Annex

- CR 60 - PAL (Public Archaeology Laboratory) has been hired by Carpionato Group to conduct a study to make sure no bodies are in the in the proposed construction area.
- CR 107 – Pegee was contacted by someone inquiring about CR 107 and hoping to get the Teamsters Union to fund a kiosk at each state cemetery. He will get back to Pegee.

- Commissioner Concerns

Caroline will send a flyer to other town planners for a presentation by Charlotte on best practices regarding cemeteries, stone walls, trees, etc. Copies of "Development Regulations, Plan Review and Cultural Preservation" flyer were distributed to the commission.

- Proposed Regulations for Problem Cemeteries

Pegee, Lew, and Charlotte met with Representative Carson to ask about adding more specific regulations to be included with other cemetery laws.

- BillionGraves

Alex asked Pegee about including a link to billiongraves.com in the website database. Pegee will run it by Michael.

- Historical Cemetery Signs

Please submit sign requests to Pegee.

- Commission Election to be held in April

- Historical Cemetery Restoration & Awareness Day 2020

The annual event takes place in April and will be organized by Christine MacWilliams

- Meeting Dates 2020

April 15, June 17, September 16, and November 18

- Volunteer Opportunities

Pegee sent several volunteers from mostly northern RI to Woonsocket to work with Greg Duhamel in St. James Cemetery, which is the final resting place of Henry C. Davis, Rhode Island's first fatality in the Civil War.

Additional Member Comments and Updates - Others have been submitted to Pegee via email

Jim reported that there were different ways to deal with duplicate headstones.

There were suggestions made for preventing weed whacker damage to headstones.

Marjory asked about shared resources such as a tripod.

Joe reported recruiting volunteers

Jim reported that the Veterans Cemetery received a grant for a new niche wall.

Russell will be covering more cemeteries in South Kingstown.

Pegee noted that the Peach Hill Cemetery in North Providence is eroding and would like to see the town build a retaining wall.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 on a motion made by Lew and seconded by Jim.

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, Secretary