

Minutes of Meeting April 15, 2015

Location: RI Veterans Home, 480 Metacom Ave., Bristol

In attendance: Pegee Malcolm, Rick Whitesell, Alex LaForce, Dory Wagner, Dave Bell, Jonathan Rascoe, Charlotte Taylor, Michael Laferriere, Alan Clarke, Sally Small, and Evelyn Wheeler

Also in attendance: Skye and Steve Pechie, Colin Parker, and Sue Taylor

Excused absences: Henry Duquette, Edna Kent, Bob Butler and Judy Fardig

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

- Presentation by Colin Parker

Colin distributed copies of "Recommended Guidelines for Geocache Placement" which outlines basic standards for placement of a geocache to the RIACHC members for their review. The guidelines will be made available to all people interested in placing a geocache in the immediate vicinity of cemetery plots in RI. Pegee made a motion, seconded by Jonathan that the commission reviews the document prior to the June meeting when the guidelines can be further discussed and voted on.

- Introduction of Draft Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2014

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

- Met School

Pawtucket, Coventry and Exeter have each had a cemetery cleaned by Met School students. Dave plans to arrange cleanup in Tiverton with the East Bay Met School.

The next scheduled student cleanup is in Warwick on April 29. Pegee hopes to schedule cleanups in Foster and Wakefield.

- Historical Cemetery Signs

Mike Hebert informed Pegee that the most recent order is not ready but may be done by mid-May and that DOT is looking into the issue of the earlier signs delaminating.

- Handbook Update

Pegee reports that the handbooks have been updated and are ready. Rick will update the opening statement and then it will be ready to send to Michael for the website.

Evelyn made a motion, seconded by Jonathan to vote to approve the updates. It was unanimously accepted with the revision to be made to the opening statement.

Charlotte suggested emailing copies to the cities and towns and letting them distribute to the various departments.

- Eagle Scout projects

Rick, Pegée and Alex each have Eagle Scouts working on cemeteries in their respective counties.

- Michael updated or commented on the following concerns:

1. After following up with Judy, he reports that they know the designer was Ralph Mohr but the manufacturer is still unknown. A couple of possibilities suggested were Gorham or Emblem & Badge.
2. The Ralph Mohr collection was left to the Johnston Library but reportedly the master book is located at the middle school. Evelyn reports the RI statehouse also has the entire collection.
3. James Arnold's work is stored in various locations; libraries in Cranston, Providence and also the RIHS. There was a discussion about determining where everything is stored and possibly copying it.
4. In order for the commission to obtain grant money there needs to be a mechanism in place. Some ways to do this would be to have money go through Preserve RI for a small fee or form a Friends group.
5. Michael gained access to the Scituate Reservoir Watershed and is trying to get a group together to document cemeteries and would like to have Julie Nathanson photograph them.

- Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries Website

Michael reported difficulties related to the web host but they seemed to be resolved. A couple new search features were added. There are now over 700 "Likes" but a lot of genealogical questions are now being posted. Rick asked if the meeting minutes are up to date on the site.

- Alliance of RI Historical Associations

Pegée has been attending meetings and reports they will be conducting a statewide scavenger hunt highlighting points of interest. The commission members made voluntary donations to sponsor a cemetery stop on the tour. Governor Pothier's monument in Precious Blood Cemetery was suggested.

- State Farm Annex Cemetery

Charlotte reports that the embankment has been temporarily stabilized in the first phase of a project to correct an issue with where headstones adjacent to a drainage ditch have fallen into the ditch.

Member Comments/Updates were reported to Pegée via email.

The next meeting will be June 17, 2015

Meeting adjourned at 9:16pm on a motion by Alan and seconded by Jonathan.

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, Secretary