Minutes of Meeting June 21, 2017

Location: Warren Town Hall

In attendance: Pegee Malcolm, Alan Clarke, Alex LaForce, Michael Laferriere, Betty Mencucci, Judy Fardig, Walter Slocomb, Bob Butler, and Charlotte Taylor.

Excused absences: Dory Wagner, Cara Condit, Edna Kent, David Bell, Lew Keen and Jennifer Galpern

Also in attendance: Charlene Butler and Carlo Mencucci

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Pegee Malcolm, chair

- Introduction of Draft Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2017

  Bob made a motion, seconded by Judy, to accept the Draft Minutes with a clarification (to fill in Dave's last name, McCarthy) in the list of additional attendees. The Draft Minutes were unanimously approved.

- Commission Vacancy for Washington County

  Evelyn Wheeler announced her resignation from the RIACHC. Dory and Alex will be asked about possible replacements.

- Tax Abatement Update

  Evelyn sent an update of the status of each of RI's cities and towns response to the RIGL 44-3-63. Copies were distributed to the commission.

- Website Update

  Michael mentioned that over the last 2 years when the website would sporadically go down nothing could be done. He recently switched to another web hosting company and as of this date had not received any complaints.

- Cemetery Day

  Pegee noted a good response to "Cemetery Day" with cleanups reported in Cranston, Warwick, Westerly and Richmond.

- Proposed Guidelines

  Betty created a document containing guidelines for headstone conservation. She would like to share this with the public to prevent irreversible damage caused to headstones by well-intended individuals attempting to reset or repair them. The document was previously distributed to the commission for input.

  Suggestions included; Using suggestive wording such as "Best Practices", providing reasons, a recommended materials list, notifying various cemetery groups listed in the website, and placing the PDF on Facebook for a trial run.

- Veterans Database Update

Work continues on gathering information on veteran burials for the database. Cara reported receiving a few complaints about the data collection requirement for flagging.

- Cemetery Signs Update

Sign order has been submitted for fabrication. Sign posts need to be ordered from out of state. When signs, posts and hardware are complete Pegee will be notified.

- State Farm Cemetery #1 (CR 060)

There are records (Patnaude) documenting many of the State Farm burials. Many of those records may eventually end up on the website dabase.

- Governor's Medallion Update

Pegee asked Judy about the possibility of using a 3-D printer to re-produce the missing markers. Judy was expecting to talk with Cara from the RI Veterans Cemetery because some of the markers belonged to governors who were veterans.

Additional Member Comments – Other Updates have been submitted to Pegee via email

There was a request for a map of Saint Patrick's Cemetery on Douglas Ave. John Sterling had some info and was able to send a map.

Human remains unearthed in the construction of a new house on Matunuck School House Road in South Kingstown appear to belong to cemetery SK 207, formerly listed as lost.

The Relph lot, CR 052, was visited by Walter and Pegee who found many of the headstones to be missing. Five bases missing the headstones were temporarily marked with concrete pavers. The cemetery's neighbors were helpful and concerned about memorializing the people, even inquiring about a cemetery sign.

Betty reported that in Burrillville the tax abatement issue would go to public hearing. Property owners with cemeteries must prove they are preserving the historical cemetery and must allow someone from the town onto their property to review. She also received an email from someone who sent a picture of the headstone of Bathsheba Sherman's husband pushed over against a fence and damaged.

The next meeting will be September 20, 2017. The location, to be confirmed, will be the Newport Library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm on a motion by Bob, seconded by Charlotte.

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, Secretary