

Minutes of Meeting June 21, 2023

Location: Pawtuxet Rangers Armory, Warwick

In attendance: Pegee Malcolm, Charlotte Taylor, Christine MacWilliams, Caroline Wells, Richard Ring, Jim Bessel, David Guiot, and Maureen Buffi

Excused absences: Lynne Rider, Edna Kent, Lew Keen, Marjory O'Toole, Judy Fardig, Debb Suggs, Betty Mencucci, Jeff Burns, and Larry Hunter

Also in attendance: Ron (Pawtuxet Rangers)

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm by Pegee Malcolm, chair

- Introduction of April 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Charlotte made a motion, seconded by Dave to accept the minutes. All voted in favor to accept the minutes.

- FAQ/FYIs

Charlotte and Lew worked on the final version for a new section on the RIACHC website. Charlotte made a motion, seconded by Caroline to accept the revisions. All voted in favor to accept the FAQs.

- Cemetery Awareness

Christine reported that the events were winding down. It was reported that Sarah Zurier had received 25 surveys from cemetery event organizers and was expecting more.

- Caroline reports the cemeteries in Warren are looking good. Some events included a talk by Dave Weed at Burr's Hill. She received feedback indicating that varying the event hours might be helpful.
- Christine noted a successful open house at the Friends Meeting House and neighboring cemetery in Woonsocket. The stone restoration demonstration at the cemetery was popular.

- Commissioner Activities

- Dave noted that the Knightsville Meeting House/Congregational Church Cemetery (CR 020) looks better than ever.
- Jim reported that the Veterans Cemetery would be undergoing a scheduled federal government inspection. Also, WPRI came and cleaned headstones. He announced that the cemetery is unable to burn flags for retirement at this time due to burn pit restrictions. Anyone with flags to retire should check with Jim after July 4 to see if he can accept them.
- Richard gave an update that Annalisa [Heppner] is now in charge of Providence cemeteries and that the RI Historical Society is exploring programming with the city. Also, the historical society is currently in talks with Ancestry.com.
- In Barrington, Jim noted that Fannin-Lehner preservationists completed headstone repairs at Tyler Point Cemetery.
- Pegee reminded the commission that when writing completion letters for community service volunteers to double-check the address (PO Box 8993) in the letterhead and confirm that all spelling and information within the letter is correct.

- Also, in Warwick a car struck a stonewall at a cemetery and the mayor is talking with DPW to see if they can repair it. Pegee also reported that Warwick received a headstone found at Brown University which was inscribed for an Archie & Lulu Van Griffin. It was determined that the headstone belonged in WK 034 but the exact section was not yet known. Additionally, at a cemetery on Main Street, two stones that had been previously repaired and soon after knocked down in an accident in 2022, are now re-set.
 - Pegee also announced that all GIS updates should go Julie for the RIACHC website and to RIGIS.
 - There was a question raised about a privately owned cemetery in Cranston which the property owners are using to store compost.
 - A question was asked about purchasing D-2 and suggestions were then made regarding its application for cleaning gravestones.
 - The question was asked if RI DOT kept records of cemeteries moved to make way for highways. No one was aware of such.
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Pegee reported that a woman wants to work with a student to create a QR code for the State Farm Annex cemetery (CR 107).
- 2023 Meeting Dates
 - September 16 (3rd Sat.) at 1:00 pm at the Newport Public Library on Spring St. in Newport
 - November 18 (3rd Sat.) Location to be determined (possibly N. Smithfield?)

Additional Member Comments and Updates – See ‘Commissioner Activities’ above. Others have been submitted to Pegee via email

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm on a motion made by Jim and seconded by Dave.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Buffi, secretary