

Minutes of Meeting November 18, 2015

Location: RI Veterans Cemetery, Exeter

In attendance: Pegee Malcolm, Alan Clarke, Alex LaForce, Rick Whitesell, Betty Mencucci, Bob Butler, Edna Kent, Michael Laferriere, Evelyn Wheeler (via SKYPE), Jonathan Rascoe, David Bell and Roger Guillemette.

Also in attendance: Charlene Butler, Carlo Mencucci, Peter Sarazin and Deron Murphy.

Excused absences: Charlotte Taylor, Dory Wagner, Sally Small, and Judy Fardig

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Pegee Malcolm

- Introduction of Draft Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2015

A correction needs to be made stating that Pegee will stay on as Chair and Alan was nominated as Vice-Chair. Bob made a motion, seconded by Alan, to accept the Draft Minutes with the correction. The Draft Minutes were unanimously approved.

- Commission Re-appointments

Pegee sent an email to Ms. Katherine Gering at the statehouse following up on the request for renewals and hadn't heard back. Alex did receive an acknowledgement regarding her re-appointment but nothing else.

- Cleanups

Pegee reported that a person who is serving 70 hours of community service will be working on a cleanup of the state farm annex cemetery. Volunteers will also be working in Smithfield and Wakefield and another with Judy in Warren.

- North Smithfield 027

There was a discussion about work being done outside of the Grange. There is a disagreement about whether or not the stone pillars mark the boundary of the cemetery or the property. Charlotte and Pegee had met with people from the Grange and Michael and Betty had each been to the site. Betty made a hand drawn map of the property's features and distributed copies to the commission members.

- Johnston 062

(via Pegee) Charlotte mentioned in her update that some fieldstones were accidentally knocked over during some clearing for a new building. The developer was instructed to notify PAL who would perform a scraping in order to begin the process of restoring the damaged cemetery. At this time Jay Waller of PAL informed Pegee that they had not yet received a formal request.

- Burrillville 118

Betty is concerned that a proposed condominium project in Pascoag will involve the blasting of ledge located approximately 50' from a cemetery. At this time a plan has not yet been filed with the Burrillville Planning Board and the RIHP & HC (RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission) hasn't been informed. Pegee offered to call Charlotte. A suggestion was made that it might be best to have the taller cemetery monuments taken down by professionals in advance and re-erected after the blasting. Evelyn will consult with her contact who was an overseer of projects involving blasting. Betty will attend meetings to be proactive. It was suggested by Pegee that a recommendation be made that the Condo Association contribute towards cemetery maintenance.

- Historic Cemetery Signs

Mike Hebert says more signs can be ordered. Portsmouth has sign posts to pick up.

- Member Comments/Updates were reported to Pegee via email.
- Additions are reported below:

Pegee reports that the Warwick Beacon ran a story about a woman who claimed her ancestor was buried at the airport cemetery (WK026) and she would be unable to visit his grave after the runway expansion but Pegee found the ancestor was actually buried in WK031 and requested the paper run a retraction.

Also, Pegee was notified that a woman reported finding two cemeteries while hiking at Alton Jones. Bob confirmed that there are 7 known cemeteries on the property. He will check to see if the pictures match any of the known cemeteries.

The Warwick Historical Society recently received cemetery information from Elsie Williams, a relative of Roger Williams who had inventoried some RI cemeteries in the 1950s. Pegee will distribute Elsie William's work to the appropriate commissioners representing towns that were inventoried.

Evelyn met with Greg Bonyngne who will update the list of GPS readings by town and send to John Sterling.

Betty and Carlo Mencucci purchased BU 054. They explained their interest and the lengthy process involved. They will take responsibility for the maintenance of the lot. Betty also reports that they repaired a gravestone at a cemetery in Harmony (# unknown) for "Chico", a monkey.

Jonathan is working with Bruce Frail on a system to record flag distribution to groups planning to flag veterans' graves. Also the new building for the RI Veterans Home is expected to open in 2017.

David reports cleanups continue.

Edna reports that an Eagle Scout project in west Glocester is close to completion and another is expected to start in the spring.

- Comments from additional attendees:

Peter Sarazin expressed concerns about LN 038 & 049 which are close to a development. Rick recommended that he review the plat maps for cemetery easements. The "25 foot rule" was discussed in regards to a vinyl fence which Peter noted was about 3 ft. away from Lincoln 049.

Deron Murphy, Chair of the East Greenwich Cemetery Commission was introduced.

Charlene Butler (and Bob) and Peter Sarazin described a ceremony held Nov. 7 at the North Burial Ground commemorating Gen. William Barton's war service and recognizing their efforts in resetting his headstone.

The next meeting will be April 20, 2016 at a location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm on a motion by Bob, seconded by