

Minutes of Meeting November 18, 2020

Location: ZOOM meeting (hosted by City of Warwick)

In attendance: (via ZOOM) Pegee Malcolm, Christine MacWilliams, Walter Slocomb, Richard Ring, Judy Fardig, Betty Mencucci, Lew Keen, Edna Kent, Charlotte Taylor, Bob Butler, Joe Jordan, Alan Clarke, Marjory O' Toole, Russ DiNoto, Caroline Wells, Jeff Burns and James Bessell

Also in attendance: (via ZOOM) Maureen Buffi

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Pegee Malcolm, chair

- Introduction of September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

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

- Historical Cemetery Signs

DOT will be accepting another order for signs. Pegee will email the commissioners the current list of requested signs to review and update.

In addition, Pegee will be able to get dual signage for the state institution cemeteries CR 060, CR 061, CR 063, CR 107 and EX 035 (Ladd School). The state institution cemetery name will also be noted.

- State Farm Cemetery Annex (CR 107)

Pegee met with Carpionato Group to tour the proposed access to the cemetery via Pontiac Ave. at the site of the future Topgolf facility (formerly Citizens Bank). She is offering tours of the new access to commissioners but at some point the area is likely to be used as a temporary COVID field hospital.

- University of Rhode Island

Pegee was contacted about remains discovered in a box at URI. The remains were determined to belong to the Champlin family. Charlotte explained how they came to be at URI. A cemetery offered to bury the remains where other Champlin members are interred. The burial is pending the required permitting from the Department of Health.

- Brown University

Warwick was contacted by Brown regarding a headstone found in a science classroom closet. The stone was found to belong in Brayton Cemetery in Warwick.

- Perpetual Care Fund

Alan would like to see a perpetual care fund set up using donated funds for those East Greenwich cemeteries currently without funds for maintenance. He would also like to get revaluation sites to include cemeteries on their maps. Also, there should be a mapping program which documents cemetery dimensions.

- Gravestone Wedged in Tree

A footstone from 1736 wedged between two trees in Hopkinton is thought to belong in Norwich, CT. Plans to remove the stone concerned some that the tree might be harmed in the process. Jim recommended contacting a tree preservation company to assess what might be done.

- Oakland Cemetery (CR 003)

Some volunteers are interested in working in Oakland cemetery. Pegée referred someone who was looking for their relative's grave to a local funeral home for information since the cemetery owner is not accessible.

A Cranston councilwoman is looking for an ordinance that would require cemetery maintenance in order to address some of the issues.

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

Jim reported that fundraising for a new monument was underway. The monument will include the surnames of Native Americans interred in the Veterans Cemetery and will be located along the main roadway.

Betty and Carlo have been working at a cemetery along the water's edge of the Wilson reservoir. DEM warned the property owner that he could not remove a fallen tree.

Judy reported that the fencing at the North Burial Ground in Warren is being repaired by an out-of-state company that does historical work. The historical society was pleased with the repair work that the Mencuccis did. Also, there are volunteers looking to do cemetery cleanup.

Caroline wants to map sea level rise and historical cemeteries. She completed Warren and Barrington and plans to contact Charlotte.

Richard reported that the RI Historical Society library is still closed to the public but there is an online reference service available. He suggested write-ups on historical cemeteries to provide to realtors.

Christine noted fall cleaning of various cemeteries in Providence County and utilized the help of community service volunteers.

Bob reported working in 11 cemeteries and reminded that volunteers should be aware of hunters when out in cemeteries during hunting season. Betty added that volunteers should be wearing orange at that time of year.

Russell asked Betty about training volunteers for repairing headstones. Normally they would host a workshop but didn't this year. She would consider training volunteers who are willing to help her in the spring.

Pegée will ask the DOT sign shop about recycling old signs. She reported receiving a thank you note from St. Mary's in Lincoln for a cemetery sign.

Jeff reports working with the Charlestown Historical Society to make cemetery cleaning plans.

Marjory reported on results of the D-2 biological gravestone cleaner after 2 years time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm on a motion by Judy, seconded by Alan

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, Secretary