



HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Town of Chilmark

MEETING NOTES - APPROVED

December 5, 2022 (via ZOOM)

Present for the Historical Commission and attending the Zoom meeting were Barbara Armstrong - Chair, Jane Slater, John Flender, Lenny Jason and Alison Kisselgof – Administrator. Also in attendance were Judy Flanders and Laurisa Rich from the Cemetery Commission.

James (Jim) Malkin and Steve McGhee were not in attendance.

The meeting came to order at 3:01 PM.

KLIMM GIFTS INVENTORY: Barbara reported to the other members that she and her husband had picked up the donated Rasmus Klimm items. She said that the family decide to keep some of the items originally offered. Barbara had sent an inventory to the members. She said that there was one item that needed repair. Items will be displayed in the new fire house & EMS buildings and also in the Harbormaster's Menemsha office. Barbara suggested that some of the smaller items could be housed in Menemsha. There were several net needles donated and Barbara offered that they could be displayed in a case together. She felt that a case should be purchased for this purpose. There was a brief discussion about display cases. A motion was made to purchase a case for the smaller donations but was withdrawn after it was suggested that the Harbormaster should decide on and purchase a display case. Jane asked about the security at the Menemsha office. Alison replied that the building was locked at night and she was unaware of any other security in place. Jane felt that locking the door should be adequate.

CEMETERY COMMISSION REQUEST – RESTORATION OF GRAVESTONES: The Cemetery Commission had sent a request for money from the Historical Resources Preservation Fund to restore gravestones at the Abels Hill Cemetery. Cemetery Commission members Judy Flanders and Laurisa Rich joined this meeting to discuss their request.

Judy said that the Cemetery Commission would like to replace some of the oldest gravestones at Abels Hill. Alan Gowell of MV Memorials, who has previously restored gravestones in Edgartown, has provided an estimate to fix 5 broken gravestones in Chilmark. Judy said this would be a large project that would not be accomplished in one year and the Cemetery Commission's plan is restore 4-5 gravestones a year over the next few years. Judy asked for guidance on the approval process.

Jane offered that the next step, after receiving Historical Commission's support for the request, would be to send the application to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to get approval. Jane suggested sending an estimate from MV Memorials with the request.

Judy mentioned that the request was for \$5000 and the Cemetery Commission would see how many gravestones could be repaired with this amount. She said that some stones would need extensive repair while others would just need cleaning. Judy went over the estimate from MV Memorials. Lenny offered that the Cemetery Commission should request a higher amount. Judy said that, since the project may last several years, she wasn't sure if the Cemetery Commission should request all the necessary funds at once or ask for recurring allocation. Jane confirmed that it was possible to request recurring funds.

CEMETERY COMMISSION REQUEST – NOMANS CEMETERY RELOCATION: Alison shared the email received by the Cemetery Commission from the US Fish & Wildlife (USFW) concerning a cemetery on Nomans Island. Laurisa shared



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that graves were already moved from a family cemetery on Nomans. There was discussion about who may be buried there, whether the town had been notified and what could be done at this late stage. Jane made a motion that any correspondence from the Town to USFW on the Nomans cemetery be made jointly from the Historical & Cemetery Commissions. John seconded the motion but it didn't pass since not every member voted. Jane suggested that the two Chairs worked together to write the letter.

FY2024 BUDGET APPROVAL: Alison shared the draft budget with Commission members. She said that it was the same as last year's budget except for the Dues & Membership line. Alison mentioned that she found the memberships that the Commission has been previously subscribed: current dues for the MV Museum, Historical New England & Mass. Historical Society would total \$305, which Alison realized was more than the budget line she proposed. The current rate for a fourth publication, Association of Gravestone Studies, was not found. Alison explained that her salary is included in a different department. With no discussion offered, Lenny made a motion to approve the budget as corrected for Dues & Memberships and Jane seconded. Vote = Slater – aye, Jason – aye, Armstrong – aye, Flender – aye. PASSED

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Jane made a motion to accept the minutes from the 10/3/22 meeting as presented and Barbara seconded. Lenny abstained from voting since he was not present at the last meeting. Vote = Slater – aye, Armstrong – aye, Flender – aye. PASSED

OTHER TOPICS: Alison mentioned that the Board of Health had returned to in person meetings and asked the Commission members what they preferred. Alison explained that the remote legislation would expire April 1st and reminded that there is construction at the town hall, which limits parking. Jane and Lenny expressed the desire to meet in person. John preferred remote meetings. Barbara said that she likes in person meetings but would prefer Zoom meetings for a little longer. It was decided that the next meeting would be on Zoom and the Commission would again discuss whether to meet in person or not.

DOCUMENTS:

10/3/22 Meeting Draft Minutes

Klimm donation inventory

12/1/22 Cemetery Commission Request for CPA Funds

11/8/22 Email to Cemetery Commission from Linh Phu, US Fish & Wildlife

FY2024 Draft Budget

NEXT POSSIBLE MEETING: October TBD

With no further business to conduct the meeting adjourned at 3:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Kisselgof, Board Administrator.