

Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 11:00 AM
Conference Room #1, Town Hall, Chilmark

Attendance:

Commissioners present: Judie Flanders (Chair), Laurisa Rich
Other: Susan Murphy (Superintendent), Carolyn Stoeber (Administrator)

The meeting was called to order by Judie at 11:04am

A. New Business

- Alan Gowell has repaired 18 stones instead of 15 stones at Abel's Hill and submitted a bill for \$5,120 for the 18 repairs. Some stones are not repairable. The CPC grant was for \$10,000. The commission agreed additional money to continue repairs would be helpful to not lose momentum on the preservation project. Judie will write a thank you note to the CPC after their January 12th meeting.
Action: A motion was made and seconded to apply to CPC for an additional \$10,000 in FY 25 to continue the preservation of monuments at AHC. Passed unanimously.
- There is a new product on the market to remove lichen called D/2. In 2 or 3 weeks the lichen disappears. It is recommended by Alan Gowell. Has it been used elsewhere on the island? Do we want to remove it? Historical perspective, the lichen does not allow you to clearly read the inscriptions. Legibility is part of the cemetery experience. Lichen digests stone. Judy will call Edgartown to see if they have used D/2. Judie will call the Gowells to talk to them about the use of D/2, continuing the work on preserving the stones, and re-using the dozen or so lead caps that were removed and are in the shed at AHC.
- Susan brought up the issue of grave subsidence and perhaps needing perpetual care funds to do the required maintenance if the fill available is not sufficient.
- Carolyn received a call inquiring what is possible for Plot #47 & 93 regarding space for burials and additional markers. They have two 11x22 plots. There is only one casket currently. There is an upright marker, a bench, and a family stone. They can do additional engraving on the existing stones and they can have additional flat markers. They will need to choose where they would like to bury someone so that it could be indicated and not have too much road encroachment with visitors.

B. Old Business

- The December 14th minutes were reviewed for edits and items needing to discuss.
Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. Passed unanimously.
 - Susan spoke with Lenny who will look for the Veterans List. Susan also spoke to Joanne who will get a copy from the Veterans Office.
 - Don Sexton's bill will reflect the new price of \$1800. The commissioners agreed that this is a reasonable price for the increased area and the care that he takes is appreciated. Another crew without his experience mowing a cemetery and the special considerations of markers, etc. would not be as qualified.
 - Susan felt that the commission should wait until after Valentine's Day to put an announcement in the town column to remind people to clean up graves.
- Laurisa will borrow some of the perpetual care signs for the wreath project. She will determine if they are made of zinc.
- Laurisa will hand-clear the poison ivy from the circle at Bayberry.

- Carolyn will send the budget notes to Judie so she can give a copy to our budget liaison.

C. Topics not anticipated by the chair

- Judie will sign outstanding invoices
- Annual report is due after the budget hearings. Susan will provide the number of the burials. Laurisa will draft an overview.
- Annual evaluations will be due in the future.

Documents reviewed: Application to CPC for continuing the preservation of monuments at AHC.

Next meeting: February 8, 2024 is the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.