

CHEBEAGUE ISLAND CEMETERY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: October 30, 2018

ATTENDANCE: Members: Beth Wiles, Kendra McKinnon, Allyson Smith, Denise Hamilton, Jane Frizzell, Laurine Curtis (via phone), Donna Damon (late); also Ann Thaxter and Gloria Brown

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES:

Motion was made by Jane and seconded by Denise to approve the September 25, 2018 minutes.

Vote was 5-0 (Donna had not yet arrived). Minutes approved.

FINANCE EXPENSE WORKSHEET UPDATE:

The committee discussed expenses and income. (Donna arrived during this discussion.) Ann was asked about her increase in hours this year over last year. It's not so much from additional mowing as it is for dealing with more people about burials and in one case a disinterment. There were 18 burials and 1 disinterment from January 1, 2017 through today.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Stilkey – Discussion about his invoice and the amount of work actually done for the \$2,000. Ann reported on her conversation with Mr. Stilkey. Glue costs \$80 for a little pot of glue. Restoration takes place by building up thin layers with time between layers to solidify, so it cannot be completed in one visit. Ann said he would not normally come out for just \$2,000, but because he has started some of the work last year, he came out to finish up. He would prefer to wait until the committee had accumulated \$5,000 worth of work to be done.

Motion by Donna and seconded by Allyson to pay Mr. Stilkey's \$2,000 invoice.

Vote was 6-0. Motion passed. Beth will ask the town administrator to pay the invoice.

Trees to be Identified for Cutting – Ann has identified 3 trees (near Webber and Jacobs plots) to be taken down and will ask Affordable Tree's Jim Fowler for his recommendations of additional trees to come down this year.

Discussion about plants/trees in the cemetery in general including deer-resistant plants, hydrangeas, few trees. Donna suggested the committee budget for and hire a landscape architect to prepare a planting plan. Jane and Denise will walk the cemetery and report back on current plants.

Cemetery Procedures at Town Office (Grave Site Information) – Ann has talked with Town Administrator Marjorie Stratton about office staff being able to help people who ask for cemetery information. Marjorie is happy to make staff available for training. It was noted that the cemetery notebooks in the office contain information about open/active plots, not plots that are "full." Much historical information is not available from the cemetery notebooks at the office. The database being developed now is expected to be more complete and accessible.

Visit to Eastern Cemetery – Ann and Laurie reported on their visit to Portland’s Eastern Cemetery, especially about the strength and capabilities of the female conservators, and the Stone Conservation Team workshops held in August and September. Beth suggested that the committee set up an appointment to meet with conservation workers and a docent-led tour of the cemetery. Donna suggested making a day of it and visiting additional area cemeteries.

Ann asked that the Old Maine Cemetery Association be added To the agenda for next April’s meeting.

INDEPENDENT ARCHEOLOGICAL CONSULTATION – proposed to be added to the January 2019 agenda.

Donna needs to know resolution of Woolpert Labs aerial photography to compare with resolution of IAC’s proposed drone photography. Preview map and documentation have no such information.

Jessie of IAC emailed Jane asking if the committee wants anything done this fall. Jane will forward the email to Donna for a response.

TOWN’S “HIGH RESOLUTION AERIAL PHOTOS” AND DATA BASE INFORMATION

Aerial Photography

Gloria demonstrated the town’s aerial map preview from Woolpert Labs. The current map is a preview of a final map which will be sent to the State of Maine. The town can get a digital copy from the state’s “GIS Department.”

Database

Gloria also showed a draft cemetery database. Ann is working with Gloria. Hopefully, the database will be fully functional by January.

PRIORITIES TO GOALS - Special projects/Monies for projects

Plan to discuss priorities and budget at January meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to change the time for future meetings to 5:30 PM.