

Truro Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2022
Truro Town Hall

TOWN OF TRURO
OCT 19 2022
RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

Present: Bob Masson, *Cemetery Commission (Treasurer & Recordkeeping)*
Holly Ballard-Gardner, *Cemetery Commission (Chairwoman & Secretary)*
John Dundas, *Select Board Liason*
Jonathan Sperber, *Visitor*

Called to order at: 9:01 am

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Masson motioned to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Gardner seconded. All in favor. The prior meeting's minutes were accepted and placed into the record. (One copy to Cemetery Commission file, one to Noelle Scoullar.)

Activity Report

Mr. Masson presented the Activity Report. He noted we need to check on Marcia Ambrose's burial that was scheduled for Aug 24. Donald Turie's burial is scheduled for Sept 24. A graveside service was held at Old North on 9/17/22 for David Horton. Mr. Masson visited the gravesite. No evidence of burial. No permit was requested. He would be a veteran of Coast Guard. We need to ascertain if a burial occurred in order to record it. John Dundas will let us know contact info so we can determine if he was or wasn't buried. Listed as not buried until further notice. Ms. Gardner motioned to accept the Activity Report. Mr. Masson seconded. All in favor, accepted, placed in the statistics record.

New Business

Regarding the Cemetery Tour on September 17, Mr. Masson noted that it was more difficult to view his lecture slide because the Library's pull down screen was damaged and we instead used a large screen monitor. Next year, we will try to use a screen to make the information larger.

Public Comment

Mr. Sperber inquired about green burials, asking if there is a possibility of green burials in the south section of Old North, he and wife would be interested. He pointed out that historically, burials had no vaults that it is only recent (current) regulations that require a vault. Mr. Sperber asked if it is required to change regulations or can the commission permit green burials. Provincetown and Brewster allow green burials in designated areas for town residents. Mr. Sperber and wife are year round residents of Truro. Interested in purchasing a plot. Part of what he is wondering – the timing – is it possible to purchase a plot, and have it marked out, with understanding that a future green/natural burial might be able to occur. He prefers Old north for green burial, near an oak tree in the back.

Mr. Masson responded that the Commission has not yet laid out the cemeteries for green burials. Ms. Gardner accepted the request and will explore the process for siting and allowing green burials. Ms. Gardner thanked Mr. Sperber for his inquiry.

Lot prices:

Mr. Dundas suggested that given current economic conditions the commission look at whether lot prices ought to be increased. He noted that an increase would make sense given the efficiency of this commission and the need to support this essential service.

Mr. Masson stated that the current price of \$800 and \$2000 its adequate and he is disinclined to change it. The last increase was from \$400 to \$800. The Congregational and Sacred Heart cemeteries can change their prices independently if they have a need for additional income to cover their maintenance costs.

Ms. Gardner agreed as a next step in the evaluation process to gather data on prices charged in neighboring towns.

Chairwoman's Report

Ms. Gardner announced the following activity:

The September 17 Lecture and Tour was a success with standing room only (65 people attended.) The Tour was presented in partnership with the Truro Library and advertised as part of Truro Treasures. Attendees asked a lot a questions and gave the commission much information in exchange. We got engagement on our and the library's Instagram.

Ms. Gardner participated in the September Select Board meeting to announce the tour.

New member Frank Grande who was due to meet on Aug 23 with Ms. Gardner and Mr. Masson cancelled again. Said his schedule would not free up until after Nov 1. The commission suggested he get in touch when he would like to meet.

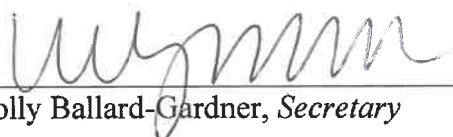
In response to residents complaints, the commission left a message for DPW regarding the removal of two dead cedar trees in the public right of way in front of Old North Cemetery, but the trees remain.

A commission member will attend CPC's grant information session September 22 to receive information on request a grant.

Adjournment

Ms. Gardner motioned for adjournment. Mr. Masson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:36am.

Respectfully submitted,


Holly Ballard-Gardner, *Secretary*


Bob Masson, *Treasurer*

TOWN OF TRURO

OCT 19 2022

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK