

Barrington Cemetery Commission (Approved June 10, 2015)

The Barrington Cemetery Commission met on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 3:00 PM in the Meeting Room at the Barrington Public Library-Community Center. This meeting was adjourned from the regular monthly meeting scheduled for March 11, 2015.

Present Mr. John A. MacIntyre, Jr., Chair; Mr. Robert Black; Mrs. Sarah P. Small, Secretary of the Commission; Mr. Enzly Ramsay, Superintendent of Operations.

Mr. MacIntyre called the meeting to order at 3:09 PM.

2. Approve Minutes of March 18, 2015 meeting: Not called for.

3. Superintendent's Report:

Removing dead limbs from large oak Tree along front Wall at Prince's Hill: Mr. Ramsay reported having completed major tree work at PH and has completed a "pre-Spring cleanup" of winter decorations there. The notice of the Spring Clean-up was NOT published in the Barrington Times, and Mr. Ramsay posted the signs notifying of his pending clean-up at the entrances to the cemeteries. Mr. Ramsay DID NOT remove any recently placed Easter decorations.

Tree Limbs at Watson Yard: Mr. Ramsay has also removed the large limbs at Watson Yard.

Leaning Story stone at FC Lot 541: With snow on the ground and the weather still too cold to pour concrete bases, Mr. Ramsay has not removed the leaning Story marker, has not made a new base, and has not reset the marker.

Spring Clean-up: Mr. Ramsay is beginning the Annual Spring Cleanup of outdated decorations, downed limbs, leaves and other winter trash, though sticks will continue to be picked up from the ground, prior to pouring new foundations before Memorial Day.

Spring Fertilizer: Mr. Ramsay recommends (depending on weather) the usual Step 1 fertilizer in the coming weeks; Step 2 from late May-early June of Weed & Feed; and Grub control in July, or in September.

Turning on water at Cremation Gardens: Mr. Ramsay will be able to have the water system at the Prince's Hill Cremation Garden operative when needed.

Snow coverage and frozen ground: Mr. Ramsay indicated that with the amount of snow coverage this winter, the ground did not freeze, thus eliminating the need for use of jack-hammers. He said that the depth of snow made the location of each grave more time-consuming, but he was able to accommodate all interments. He indicated that the burial arranged through Smith-Mason by the Allen Family was a "no-show", the first he has experienced in many years. He left the grave open, but covered, for two or three days, but re-filled it when no new burial date was scheduled.

4. Grave Stone Restoration Work with Fannin-Lehner Restoration Consultants:

Mr. MacIntyre reported that the Fannins have been engaged for the week of August 10th – 14th for restoration work in Barrington Cemeteries. Mrs. Small reported visiting the cemeteries to determine where, and the kind of, restoration work that might be needed.

Princes' Hill markers needing work or replacement:

Section B: Broken slate markers, several small footstones to right of north entrance
Small marble footstone about 75 ft. north of Bus stop

Section C: Lot 20, Gr. 2. - Adelaide B. Collins, downed in storm of Sept. 2013, cleaned during restoration work in August 2014, and stored in the Peck Tomb. (See attachment to Sept. 10, 2014 minutes.) [RICTP- Section C Lot 0059 next to Viall and Perry.]

Section C: Lot 67 - Nancy W. Miller, died 1853. Marble, in key. Tablet is loose - just balancing in key - and in danger of falling over and breaking. [RICTP C 0123]

Section D: Along south (Town Hall) side of Main Driveway –
D 195 - SABER is off the base, Mr. Ramsay probably could reset
D 214 - HOLMES, 8 gr. Lot- footstones need to be aligned and reset.
D 240 - WILBUR, possible 6 Gr. Lot - footstones need to be aligned and reset.

Section F – behind tomb:

2 marble round top markers: Hoffman, William Henry and wife Mira Smith - need cleaning.
Top of Hoffman monument – needs cleaning.
Two unidentified detached bases next to the Hoffman lot. Remove and store.

Forest Chapel:

East Gate. Signs and fence post.

Needing attention - Wooden Cross, sw corner near Watson, Martin and Viall.
Gate 1. Medbury – back to Waterway.

Tyler Point: Cap on Fence gate broken.

Approximately 4-5 slate markers broken and down. Question as to whether they can be repaired: Kelley, Short with 2 names, Capt. John Lawton, 1759,

Approximately 8 to 12 marble markers broken to various degrees and/or down: Bishop, Short, Bowen or Bowden, Drown, Lawten, etc.;

Approximately 8 to 12 marble markers broken to various degrees and/or down:
Short, Martin, Stanley, Kent & wife?, Drown, Bishop, Winsor?, Bowen?, etc.

5. How to Handle Grave Sell-back with No Deed:

Mr. Black said he had not been able to contact anyone from Swan Point regarding how they handle this problem. (See Minutes of March 18, 2015)

Mr. Ramsay suggested that with no deed, someone with an interest in the space should be able to “show ownership” in descending order.

- 1) The owner, or owners may have a cancelled check showing purchase; a funeral director’s bill proving burial in that space/lot for another (provable) family member; etc.
- 2) An “assign”, someone who has proof that the original owner intended they receive goods, services, or other tangibles, and might make use of space or spaces in the owner’s lot;
- 3) Heir or heirs, a single descendant or group of descendants who are to inherit property from the owner or owners;
- 4) Those who have a relationship with the owner, or owners, or a “wish list” they would like to receive from the owner/owners.

6. How to Handle Burials When There is No Deed: See Number 5 Above.

Mrs. Small expects to attend the RI Advisory Commission on Historic Cemeteries on Wednesday, April 15th, and has asked that this topic be placed on the Agenda for that meeting.

7. Scanning Old Minutes:

Mrs. Small has BCC Annual Reports from 1990 when Lewis E. Woodard, Jr. was Chairman of the Barrington Cemetery Commission and Minutes of Commission meetings beginning December 12, 1990 when Peter G. Lawrence was Secretary of the Commission. She has agendas and minutes of Commission Meetings beginning February 13, 1991 when Mr. Lawrence was Secretary of the Commission, until November 18, 1992 when Mrs. Small became Secretary of the Commission. All of these minutes and reports were typewritten until Mrs. Small began using a computer with the minutes dated December 11, 1996.

Mrs. Small would like the Commission to have the Agendas, Minutes and Commission records in an easily accessible format for researching previous issues, names, topics, cemeteries, etc.. There was discussion. Mr. Ramsay suggested Boston Computer Scanning, as a company that might be able to scan and index the typewritten records, and integrate them with the computer records, into an easy-to-use format showing maps, income-expenditure information, a database of ongoing space sales, deeds, etc. Mr. Macintyre will contact Boston Computer Scanning and similar companies which might be able to present a program that meets the needs of the BCC.

The next BCC meetings will be scheduled for May 13th and June 10th. Mr. MacIntyre will be away from May 5th -12th. Mr. Ramsay will be on vacation the first week of August.

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 PM.

Sarah P. Small, Secretary