

## **DRAFT Minutes of Meeting April 21, 2010**

**American-French Genealogical Society, Woonsocket**

**In attendance: Evelyn Wheeler, Judith Fardig, Letty Champion, Peggie Malcolm, Bruce MacGunnigle, Dan Evangelista (RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery), Lee Teverow, Sally Small, Robert Butler, Henry Duquette, Edna Kent**

**Excused Absences: Paul Robinson**

**Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Chairwoman Wheeler**

**Introduction of DRAFT minutes from November 18, 2009**

**11 – 0 to accept minutes as written**

### **Old Business**

**1. List of City and Town Cemetery Groups has been posted on the website, and the Coventry group has already received several inquiries as a result**

**2. GPS Update: Scituate, East Greenwich, Westerly, Richmond, Foster, part of Glocester, and Coventry remain to be completed – Chairwoman Wheeler to assist**

**3. GPR Update: GPR was used to examine 1 Cumberland and 2 Cranston cemeteries, and the findings were that they were possible cemeteries – scraping was recommended**

**4. Report of the Web Site Committee**

- Separate document read during meeting**
- Ken Rahn will continue to host the Cemetery Database Website, but he is uncomfortable with anyone else managing the data, so a more permanent solution needs to be identified**
- Lee Teverow introduced information regarding a survey done with the six libraries that currently host the full Sterling version of the Cemetery Database – several respondents were unaware of the new website. Lee will follow up with a letter to each of the libraries to update on the progress and will look into offering a Fall workshop for Continuing Education for all Libraries**

**- Three recommendations from the Committee:**

- 1. Send John Sterling an introductory letter thanking him for all of his hard work and dedication, and requesting that he meet with the Committee this Summer**
- 2. Continue to pursue finding a government agency to host the website**
- 3. Set up a Facebook page**

**Motion to approve moving forward with the above three recommendations by Pegée Malcolm, with a second by Henry Duquette**

**11 – 0 to approve**

**5. Funding Project Update: DOC project is not viable; No word on funding assistance through Whitehouse and Kennedy offices; The Commission, with the help of Mike Scalzi, has applied for a significant amount of funding for the upkeep of Veterans' graves across the state**

**6. Mausoleum Update: Roger Williams Mausoleum in Cranston has been condemned and is in receivership; Meeting scheduled April 29th at 8:30 at Superior Court on Benefit Street**

**Report from members**

**a. Robert Butler: 1 of the 8 missing cemeteries in West Greenwich has been found in the Big River Reservoir area off Sweet Sawmill Road**

**b. Letty Champion: “Colonial Cemeteries of Newport” book is available now; Discovered that several stones were being stored at various places (Stevens shop, Friends Meeting House, Newport Historical Society) – will be reset in June**

**c. Henry Duquette: Burrillville is considering adding town ordinances to reinforce state laws against damaging cemeteries; “Lost” BU500 has been identified as NS018**

**d. Edna Kent: Winsor Cemetery in Glocester was damaged by two falling trees, including the headstone for Abigail Winsor; A female gravestone carver (one of only 6 in the country) from RI is working on the stone**

**e. Pegee Malcolm: Coventry and West Warwick Cemetery Commissions are going strong; Survey of Warwick cemeteries revealed that 93% are cleaned annually, and this year it is 95%!**

**f. Sally Small: Barrington Cemetery holding an Open House this year the week of August 23rd – Prince’s Hill restoration team will be there that week; Columbarium project underway**

**g. Judith Fardig: Development company wants to work on a lot in Warren that impacts the David Barton Cemetery – proposing that an archaeological survey be done first because deeds reference other cemeteries nearby, and it is documented that the families had slaves that may have been buried “outside” the cemetery bounds – RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission is involved**

**h. Dan Evangelista: RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery is the 3rd busiest in the nation; Flooding had no significant impact on the Cemetery, Eagle Scout project completed Sunday; Memorial Day service scheduled for May 31st at 1 pm**

**i. Bruce MacGunnigle: Eagle Scout project to clean EG #4 and #10; Cemetery on Division Street now has a “new” sign correctly identifying it as an EG cemetery**

## **New Business**

**1. RIGL modifications were before Committee, but typographical errors needed to be corrected, so they will need to go before Committee again**

**2. Earth Day projects: Wine St Cemetery in EG, Judy – Eagle Scout project; Oakland Cemetery in Cranston**

**3. Veterans Cards update: Advertising on ServeRI has brought more volunteers to transcribe cards, as well as for cemetery cleanups, GPS readings in Richmond. Chairwoman Wheeler came across an old reference to the cards’ origins**

**4. Chairwoman Wheeler has found a company in NY that will do the signs for \$20 – will ask for a sample to see what they will look like**

- 5. Carolyn Crist-Schwab and James Spears have resigned, leaving a seat open for Washington County and Newport County**
- 6. Two trees from NP002 hit a house, prompting questions as to who “owns” the cemetery**

**Next meeting – June 16th at 7 pm – location TBA**

**Henry Duquette made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Judith Fardig**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm**

**Respectfully Submitted by Emily Corbett, Secretary**