

Minutes of Meeting November 19, 2014

Location: Kickemuit Village, 20 Libby Lane, Warren

In attendance: Henry Duquette, Judy Fardig, Rick Whitesell, Alex LaForce, Dory Wagner, Bob Butler, Dave Bell, Jonathan Rascoe, Roger Guillemette, Charlotte Taylor, Michael Laferriere, Alan Clarke, Sally Small, and Evelyn Wheeler (via SKYPE)

Excused absences: Pegee Malcolm, Edna Kent, and Kirsten Hammerstrom

Meeting called to order at 7:11 pm by Co-Chair Henry Duquette

- **Introduction of Draft Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2014**

Henry noted that the minutes should clarify one of the visitors to the Met School meeting as Bruce Frail along with Pegee, Evelyn and Henry. On a motion made by Judy, seconded by Bob, the commission voted unanimously to approve the draft minutes with the revision.

- **State Farm Annex Cemetery**

Charlotte reported that she still hasn't heard from the Department of Administration (DOA). After finding the headstones in the drainage ditch she contacted DOA and the City of Cranston.

- **Met School**

Dory spoke with Santa Espinosa of the Met School to arrange for a group of students to clean a cemetery in Exeter. A busload of students arrived and raked the cemetery. Henry suggested that a weather protocol be established with the school for future cleanups.

Sally asked about the possibility of establishing community groups to serve as mentors during cleanups.

The next scheduled student cleanups are: Pawtucket #007 (Riverside), North Kingstown #012 on Dec. 3, and Tiverton # 001 on Dec. 10.

- **RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

Jonathan announced that on December 13 at 12pm Wreaths Across America Day will be observed.

- **Rhode Island Historical Library (via email) announced it will re-open in December.**

- **Handbook Update**

Rick and Evelyn are working on updating the existing handbooks. The updates should include address updates, enabling legislation, moving the RI General Laws to the back and addition of the commission's PO Box for reporting found cemeteries. There was a discussion on whether the changes were ready to go to a vote but it was determined that it should wait for further review.

- **Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries Website**

Michael reported that he updated the database about a month ago and has another coming soon.

At Charlotte's (RIHPHC) request, Michael agreed to remove the link to the state website on the Facebook page, which now has 550 "Likes".

- **Redundant Stones**

Discussion about what do when a headstone is replaced but the original wasn't destroyed and turns up elsewhere. Jonathan suggested taking any duplicate veteran's stones to the RI Veterans Cemetery to be crushed to avoid future confusion.

- **Historic Cemetery Sign Update**

Pegee (via Henry) reports that she was informed by Mike Hebert of DOT that they are working on the latest sign order which should be ready in January. Some commissioners reported that signs from a previous order are delaminating. DOT will be informed.

- **Geocaching Presentation by Colin Parkhurst of the Warwick Historical Cemetery Commission**

Colin read a prepared written statement (see attachment) concerning the established guidelines within the geocaching community for the responsible use of historical cemeteries in the rapidly growing activity of geocaching.

The commission was in agreement with the stated guidelines and reiterated that when planning a geocaching event involving a historic cemetery that permission of the property owner be obtained. The commission suggested that a commission member be contacted prior to planning the event to make sure there are no additional issues.

Member Comments/Updates were reported to Pegee via email.

The next meeting will be April 15, 2015, possibly at the Bristol Soldiers Home (RI Veterans Home) in Bristol. To be confirmed by Jonathan.

Judy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alan. Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Buffi, Secretary