

MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
September 18, 2008

A regular meeting of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee was called to order at Portsmouth City Hall, Conference Room A, at 3:30 p.m. on September 18, 2008

The following committee members were in attendance: Richard Adams; June Rogers; Donald Twombly; Judy Nerbonne; and David Ewing

The minutes of the meeting of August 20, 2008 were approved.

Issues relating to Public Works

The sugar maple in Union has been posted for removal.

DPW has decided to solicit bids for the replacement fence at POG, believing that the work may be done more inexpensively by an outside firm.

Richard Adams will coordinate with DPW concerning possible additional tree removals and/or trimming at Pleasant and POG. He will also ask how such work is billed (i.e., from which account does the money come).

Adams will also ascertain the process by which the city solicits bids for work.

Chairman's Comments

The need for new members was reiterated. June Rogers believes she will be able to recruit members. David Ewing noted that we should look for individuals with needed skills, such as gravestone restoration and landscaping. Judy Nerbonne will ask Valerie Cunningham if she still regards herself as a member of the committee.

Projects

The committee again agreed that no restoration work will be undertaken until a five-year plan is created, together with criteria for restoration procedures and a standard for estimates.

David Ewing presented his work to date on a standard operating procedure manual relating to restoration and repairs. He has made good progress and believes that the committee will be able to have the manual completed by year-end. He noted that it should contain procedures relating to landscaping, tree maintenance, and perhaps other areas of concern.

The work of Mr. Nalenz, expected to be a comprehensive analysis of work needed on gravestones in all of the four cemeteries, will likely provide a cornerstone for the five-year capital improvement plan that the committee hopes to complete before launching any additional repair work. However, David Ewing suggested that the committee might consider repairs to the streetside wall at Union before the plan is completed. Adams will consult with Everett Kern on this.

Richard Adams will continue to pursue the matter of the replacement stones in POG and determine who, if anyone, authorized same. David Ewing agreed to draft a letter to city officials outlining our concern about such undertakings and soliciting guidance as to how to prevent them from reoccurring.

Treasurer's Report

David Ewing reported that there have been no changes since his report in August. He observed that it might be desirable for the committee to undertake some projects this year so that the need for continuing appropriations will be clear to those controlling such matters.

He will write a note of thanks to the town of Hopkinton for the donation of \$50 received as thanks for the restoration workshop.

Adams will communicate with Rich Alperin in Newmarket and try to arrange a tour of the historic cemetery in that town in order to view and judge the quality of the restoration work that was recently completed there by Kai Nalenz.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm. The next meeting will be on October 23 at 3:30 pm in Conference Room A.

Richard Adams
Chairman