



CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 5, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting held in person at City Hall in Conference A

Members Present: Susan Sterry, Co-Chair; Deirdre Forte, Co-Chair, Michael Griffin; Eva Boice; Celeste Brooks; Sue Polidura; Kerry Rubinstein; Donald Margeson and Duncan McCallum arrived at 4:07p.m.

Staff Present: Suzanne M. Woodland, Deputy City Manager/Deputy City Attorney; Corin Hallowell, Parks and Greenery Foreman

1. Call to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call of the Members as noted above.
3. Minutes of the meeting of April 7, 2022 were approved unanimously.
4. Brief report back that Union Cemetery was approved to be on the New Hampshire Historic Registry.
5. Boice has been working on a Moose Plate Grant application. To support that application, Co-Chair Sterry recently did a walk around with local contractor Pickering Marine to evaluate the stone wall behind Union and North Cemetery. It is not going to fall apart right away, but needs to be repaired at some point. Graves along the eroded back edge of the cemetery were noted. Pickering Marine is preparing an estimate, but rough estimate is about \$20,000. Work consist of resetting fallen stones with a small piece of equipment. NH Department of Environmental Services needs to weigh in on permitting needs, if any. Hallowell will participate in that assessment regarding permitting needs. Agrees resetting of stones would be useful to maintenance needs.
6. Discussion regarding L-Chip Grant: This grant requires more work and matching funds. Co-Chair Sterry suggests applying for a grant for purposes of rebuilding the tomb (which has been partially dismantled due to use by vagrants -the front façade only is still standing). There was discussion of other projects on which the committee might use L-CHIP funds. A suggestion was made to table this until later in the year and discuss potential projects and LCHIP criteria. The cost and effort required for repairing broken headstones and whether that work effort

might be eligible was considered. Also there was a brief discussion of a wall in need of repair at Cotton Cemetery which Michael Griffin has brought to the attention of the Department of Public Works (DPW).

7. Co-Chair Sterry spoke with Assistant Planning Director, Nick Cracknell, about the Certified Local Government Program as another potential funding source. According to what Co-Chair Sterry heard from Mr. Cracknell, Historic District Commission must approve/apply for the funds. Funds can be used for inventorying historic assets and writing applications.
8. Co-Chair Sterry continues to work with GIS Coordinator, James McCarty, at DPW to put cemetery information on the City's mapping system and to make the information more accessible to the public.
9. Co-Chair Sterry has reached out to several contractors about the possibility of getting an updated restoration Edge Plan to clean up the landscaping along the edge of North Cemetery. Piscataqua Landscaping is interested and Hallowell will stay in touch with Co-Chair Sterry on this.
10. Discussion of Committee Member's Benecick's City Council meeting presentation. Mr. Benecick has been invited by the 400th Committee to help add to the 101 Objects Book.
11. As part of other business, the Committee discussed potential events for the 400th celebration and options. Currently there is no consensus yet from the Committee. Suzanne Woodland will work with Co-Chair Sterry to develop a draft plan of activities to be submitted to the whole committee at the next meeting. Also as part of other business, Polidura shared information about the upcoming Memorial Day activities at North Cemetery. Finally, there was discussion of the Headstone Cleaning Project on Saturday May 7, 2022 and coordination with Public Works. Members talked about the approach to projects such as use of QR codes and other signage during project work to generate interest and donations.
12. Next Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Suzanne Woodland, Deputy City Manager / Deputy City Attorney
Approved at June 2, 2022 meeting