

Prince George's Cemetery Committee

Minutes for November 16, 2014

Note: Location Folder B Recording Device on during the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by President Melody Chandler . A sign-up sheet was circulated for members' signatures. Present were Gayle Chandler, Melody Chandler, Sandie Gerken, Meri Jo Montague, Brian Baull, Calvin Ward, and Linda Ward.

The agenda was reviewed. Gayle moved to approve it. Sandie seconded the motion and it was approved by all present.

The minutes from the May 4, 2014 meeting were read. Linda Ward moved to approve with a second from Gayle Chandler. The motion passed and the minutes were approved without amendments.

Brian Baull read the treasurer's financial statement. Our current assets are \$112,459.87, including check account and CD totals. Expenditures since the last meeting include \$1675.00 to Curt Czapp after insurance proceeds from the accident damage to the cemetery wall were received. A total of \$2550 was paid out to Sussex County Corrections for cemetery maintenance. A \$10 registration fee was paid to the State of DE. The proposed budget for FY2015 was presented and a copy of these reports and statements are attached to the hard copies of these minutes.

Correspondence: Several emails were received regarding the cemetery. These will be reported under Old and New Business in the minutes.

Report by Town Administrator: President Melody Chandler read the report submitted by Stacey Long. All payments totaling \$2550 have been disbursed for perpetual Care and maintenance. Fencing has been erected per photo presented except for small section needing bump out fence around stones. Materials to add the section are purchased. Town awaiting instructions from cemetery committee and state regarding decisions about the fencing. No news to report on the issue of irrigation. Waiting for reply from state. The insurance payment has been received on the brick wall damage from auto collision. Curt Czapp has completed the repair.

OLD BUSINESS:

DDOC Maintenance has been completed for the 2014 season. No further discussion deemed necessary.

DE Preservation Fund Fencing Installation: With the \$100 grant, materials for the approved fencing were purchased and Bob Flowers erected the fences without any further expense to the cemetery fund. Since we nor the state had provided any placement in writing, the town decided to erect the fence close to the tombstones on town property, which placed the fence within actual plots along the Ward Lane (town side) tract with gaps where a tree and stones were actually on state land. Meri Jo, Calvin Ward, Patti Adams, and Stacey Long met with Kenneth Darnsey of the Bureau of Historical Affairs on Wednesday of last week at the cemetery to discuss issues on the fencing. The state was under the impression that the fencing would be on state property and would protect the area west of the chapel as shown on the GPR survey where graves or anomalies were detected. The state has no objection to moving the current fencing back away from graves on town side toward the "lane", which is state land. There arose a question of what to about fencing to protect probable graves on state property west of the chapel building.

Discussion centered around objections to the current fence infringing on plots. Brian Baull moved that we have a formal meeting with state support person, Cheri Dodge-Biron with representatives from the town, cemetery committee, skand the Friends to come to an agreement in writing on what is appropriate and acceptable and then move forward with the fencing issue. Linda Ward seconded this motion and it passes in favor. Brian will ask the town to arrange this meeting. We will address this issue again next November to see if additional funding is available to make fencing changes. Cheri-Dodge Biron, State Support Services Administrator can be reached at 201-736-7406. Meri Jo will discuss this issue with the Friends.

Update of Town Website: Melody requested that we have a cemetery representative's email available on the website to receive questions and concerns about the cemetery. Melody has been getting emails and wants to remove her personal email from the site. It was discussed to make Brian Baull, as the town's rep. on our committee, the point of contact for the town office to keep advised on cemetery issues, so that this information can be forwarded to members of the committee in a timely manner. Brian will discuss this issue at the next town council meeting. It was suggested that the Friends also place a point of contact email or phone number on the website for issues regarding the chapel. The state's Ground Penetrating Survey is now available on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Irrigation System: Doug Melson, on behalf of Mrs. Lorraine Banks, approached the town about the possibility of installing an irrigation system in the cemetery. She was willing to provide the installation funds. The state has been contacted for opinion on the issue and possibility of placing a well on state property. After much discussion regarding the future maintenance costs, the well vs town water issue, on whose plots the piping, electrical lines, etc. would be

placed and who would monitor the system, the general consensus was that this was not a feasibility.

Brick Wall Repair: The wall was damaged at the Chapel Lane corner due to an automobile collision. Since the wall has been repaired by Curt Czapp, mason, with no further cost to the cemetery fund, the committee was satisfied with the result.

Damaged Graves and Headstones: Melody was forwarded a concern email regarding a fallen stone on the plot of Jim Bunting family. There is a stone of Hannah Conquest, lying on the plot. Jim wanted to know what could be done about this issue. Sandie advised that that stone has always been there ever since she became associated with PGC in 1980. There is no decision that this committee can make on this issue. The town will seek advice from the state. A response will be made to the Bunting family. There are a few gravesites that have fallen in and are a liability issue. We did fill in previous fallen graves with sand as per recommendation from the state. Calvin Ward felt that Thorogood's Concrete might be willing to donate a few buckets of sand without charge, if asked. Brian will bring this issue up to the town council for a decision. These graves need to be filled soon.

Communication Issues: Melody reported that the communication between the town and the cemetery committee is not consistent, nor timely. Since Rae Long and Duane Kenton are not clerking at the town, regular communication has decreased. We discussed solutions and felt that the town's representative to our committee could be requested as a contact for information to be dispersed to us as issues arise. Brian will bring this up at the town's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Gayle moved to adjourn the meeting with no further business on the table. Sandie seconded the motion and it was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m. The date and time of the May 2015 meeting is to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra H. Gerken, secretary