

PRINCE GEROGE'S CHAPEL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Gayle Chandler at 2:05 p.m in the Dagsboro Town Hall. Members present were: Gayle Chandler, Patti Adams, Paulette Hickman, Melody Chandler, Brian Baull, Cindi Brought, Meri Jo Montague, and Sandie Gerken.

Sandie Gerken moved to approve the agenda for the meeting. With a second motion from Jo Montagues, all signified to approve the agenda.

Paulette moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2017 meetings with no corrections or amendments. Melody seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The committee examined the treasurer's financial report and the cemetery committee budget as presented in the Administrator's Report of May 20, 2018. Since the November meeting, we have had gross income of \$1558.05, including 4 burial permits, 1 set corner markers fee, \$363.05 CD interest. For expenses, we have paid out \$650.00, which includes budgeted grass cutting payment to DOC and a set of corner markers ordered from Lloyds's Markers. TOTAL net income: \$938.05. A motion was made by Melody to approve the treasurer's report and the cemetery budget. After a second motion by Patti, the vote was unanimous to approve.

The town received correspondence dated 5 February 2018 regarding our application for a mini-grant from the Delaware Preservation Fund. This was denied for 2018.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS, REPRESENTATIVES, ADMINISTRATOR:

Meri Jo reported that the Friends had a fundraiser movie at the Clayton Theatre in April, netting almost \$600. She announced the annual meeting of the Friends to be Tues, June 26, 7 pm at the chapel for election of officers and board members.

Cindi presented her written report, most issues will be discussed in Old and New Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE: The town has hired a new part-time maintenance man, Bill C. Bryant from Selbyville to replace out-going Bob Flowers, who left mid-March due to illness. The prisoners have not been removing the old seasonal decorations. The town will handle this responsibility in the future.

WEBSITE: The website has been fine tuned. By Megan. Sandie's written articles on the chapel have been added to the website. Other corrections regarding committee officers/terms and donation information has been added to our section. Gayle mentioned that she would like more photos on the website. Sandie will look for some old photos of the chapel, and other photos of interest to add about the chapel and submit what she has to the town website administrator. Some more photos of the cemetery and chapel can be taken.

BURIAL ISSUES: Several unresolved burial plot issues were discussed. Charles and Joanne Bireley have discovered that the Farmer child was buried within their plot. Cindi reported that there is room for the Bireleys to have their plot on the other side of the Farmer child's grave. She would like to suggest to the Bireleys to consider switching plots if both parties could come to an agreement. Sandie was asked to speak with Joanne Bireley about this possibility so this issue can be resolved. This issue has been hanging for over a year. Someone can go out to examine these plots with Joanne.

Cindi reported that she has several issues with the plots on her cemetery map. Block 5, specifically. There seems to have plots perhaps sold or turned over to other people for which she has no record. The plots G, H seemingly owned to William/Thelma Kester, now contained burials for Minerva and Sidney Banks. Plot F, also now in Banks lot, appears to be owned by Julia Marshall (both E and F) Plot E contains the burial of Louise Byrd, a relation of Marshall. Cindi requested that this committee have 1-2 people go out to the cemetery with her to go through it with the paperwork she has and mark the differences. We can then compare notes with Doug Brown of Melson's Funeral Home to try to clear up any discrepancies. There were 4 corner markers ordered for Banks in 2016, but only 2 needed, so the remaining 2 are in storage. However, Cindi discovered when she went out to look at the Rickards plot for the coming burial, she discovered that no corner markers were ever placed when Eleanor Banks was buried. So 2 corner markers were put elsewhere and she has no record of it. This issue is being researched.

An issue arose regarding the Rickards plot. The town paperwork varied from the Melson Funeral Home paperwork. This issue has been resolved with the town map amended to meet Melson's accurate records.

DELAWARE PRESERVATION FUND: Per letter mentioned in above Correspondence section of these minutes, our application for a grant to repair two old graves that are disintegrating was denied as not eligible. The old brick vaults are in danger of collapsing caving in. Kurt Czapp was consulted about the cost to fill in these graves with dirt, then cement over them. The estimate was \$6000.00 total for both graves. The cost for fill dirt was \$1000 each. After

much discussion, it was decided that these graves posed a liability risk and need to be filled with dirt as soon as possible, and consider further repairs later. Melody motioned that we check on the cost of fill dirt and to ask the new maintenance man if he could do the job. Sandie seconded the motion and the committee agreed.

FUNDRAISING: The committee is in need of funds. Patti has been trying to obtain names of families that have burials at PGC cemetery. She presented a sample letter from the Dagsboro Redmen's Cemetery. It was just a single sheet of paper, the letter folded over with a stamp on the front. We discussed how to get names and addresses for current relatives. Sandie will help with this. We want to send out letters requesting donations.

CEMETERY PLOT FEES: Dagsboro Finance Clerk, Duane Kenton had researched other cemeteries fees for plots and for burial permits. She presented her finding and we are basically in line with most of the cemeteries. We charge \$600 to purchase a plot and \$225.00 for 4 corner markers. To open a grave, we charge \$250.00. The only other cemetery that charged significantly more was Barrett's Chapel. We would like to information be provided to us in spreadsheet format in the future. We will reassess prices each spring and leave as it for now.

NEW BUSINESS:

STATE OF DELAWARE YEARLY CONTRACT FOR CHAPEL: The state has increased the lease amount from \$1.00/year to \$500.00/year. Ultimately, the town council will make the decision on making this payment and renewing the lease. Director of Historical & Cultural Affairs, Tim Slavin indicated he was willing to discuss this once the town has considered it. The lease renews July 1, The lease term has been for 2 years (\$2). The Friends have to consider this as well, as subleasee. Their funds are very limited.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business for the good of the order, Sandie moved to adjourn the meeting. All agreed after a second by Melody. The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandie Gerken, Recording Secretary