

## MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2019 MEETING

### PRINCE GEORGE'S CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by President Gayle Chandler at 2:03 p.m. in the Dagsboro Town hall. Present were members: Gayle Chandler, Patti Adams, Meri Jo Montague, Paulette Hickman, Sandie Gerken, and Town Administrator, Cynthia Brought. These minutes were recorded on the town's voice recorder, File A.

Patti moved to approve the agenda as presented. Paulette seconded, and all present signified to approve the agenda.

After review of the minutes of the May 5, 2019 meeting, Paulette moved to approve them without corrections. The motion was seconded by Pattie and all present approved.

Gayle presented the treasurer's financial report and the cemetery committee budget as presented in the Administrator's Report. The balance of the committee's checking account is \$4898.05. The income since the last meeting has been \$1119.26, representing \$869.26 CD interest and \$250.00 for one grave opening (Jackson). The total cemetery expense for this term, representing perpetual care was \$3000 (which is over the budgeted amount). A copy of the report and deposit details can be found in the administrator's report of 11/10/2019.

There was no correspondence reported at this meeting.

Reports of Officers, Representatives and Administrator: Sandie reported on recent activities of the Friends of PGC, including the opening of the chapel the third Sunday of each month through November for visitation, a recent Hymn Sing of 10/20/2019 and the planned Hymn Sing scheduled for Sunday, November 17 at 2:00 p.m., featuring Charlie Papparella and his band. The Friends have brought up a problem with the drive off of Ward Lane to be discussed in New Business.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Grasscutting: The town has been dissatisfied with the job of the current contractor (Gray) in the town and at the cemetery. Bids will be going out for the grasscutting before the spring season. There is one more cutting scheduled at the cemetery for this fall, which will be another \$250.00.

Grasscutting Cost: The Friends of PGC are now paying a portion of the grasscutting fee in the amount of \$100.00 per month. The town is billing the Friends each month. (\$50.00 per cutting)

Replacement of Fence Rails and Posts: Bill Bryant, town maintenance person, has examined all the posts and rails and there are several in need of replacement at this time. There are a few rails in reserve to use. We will discuss the possible costs for the additional fence repair in New Business.

#### FARMER/BIRELEY GRAVES:

This issue has basically been resolved to all parties' satisfaction, pending the receipt of the signed agreement from Dawn Chandler, mother of the Farmer child. The agreement is to transfer lots to correct the incorrect placement of the Farmer baby's grave. Once this final signature is received, Cindy will send out a formal letter, along with copies of the signed documents, to everyone. The cemetery records will be changed to reflect this transfer.

#### CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT RENEWALS:

Per this committee's recommendation at the May 5, 2019 meeting, Cindi renewed the CD that came due 7/20/2019 (CD#3380). We went from .50% to 2.08% interest. She advised that we have another CD coming up for renewal on 3/24/2020 (CD#8482). She will investigate to see if we can better the interest rate on this one, but it is currently at 2.230%. Discussion on this CD centered on whether we might need to take some amount from this CD at that time to meet future expenses, such as grass cutting, that may occur between now and the next meeting in May 2020. We will owe \$250 for the next November cutting. If we get no donations by the time to roll it over, we may need to take some interest out of CD. Cindi reported that major expenses have now been paid and we should be okay until the next meeting. Sandie moved that we have Cindi go ahead and investigate with bank for a better rate. If not, she should go ahead and renew it as is. The motion was seconded by Patti and all signified approval of the motion.

#### TUNNELL CLEANING OF MONUMENTS:

So far, we have yet to contact Mr. Tunnell that the state of DE has advised that these monuments are to be cleaned with water and a soft brush, no soap or chemicals. Cindi reported that she would talk with Brian (mayor) and send a letter advising same. Discussed that we should not clean the monuments that belong to the families. Most would not want others to clean, possibly damage the stones that belong to family. Sandie brought up the Historical Marker on the Chapel Lane side of the property that is covered with mildew or algae. IT was agreed that since this marker is the property of the state and put there by the Archives, it is their responsibility.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### POSSIBLE RULES AND REGULATIONS UPDATE:

Heffelfinger Plot: As the last meeting we discussed the placement of a bench along with various old decorations within a small fence that need to be cleaned up. It had been agreed that the small bench fell within the rules and regs, but the town should send a friendly reminder regarding necessary prior authorization per regulations. The committee had agreed at the May meeting that the bench was acceptable and could be left. Once a contact was made with a family member, Cindi reported that most of the decorative items had been removed. Who cleaned it up is unknown. A photo was presented to prove that the outdated stuff is gone.

In light of this issue, Gayle questioned whether we should amend rule #13 which speaks to the timely removal of decorations (seasonal, etc). She proposed a sentence be added that the town has the authority to remove outdated or damaged items. Sandie moved that the amendment to Rule #13 be added and worded: "The town of Dagsboro reserves the right to remove any outdated and damaged decorations." Paulette seconded the motion and all signified their agreement to pass the motion. This now goes to council.

### POWERWASHING OF BRICK WALL:

Bill Bryant, maintenance, has power washing the wall and it has made a bright, positive difference in appearance. Cindi reported that Bill has now resigned and the new town maintenance person is Joe Quinn.

DELAWARE PRESERVATION FUND: We discussed asking for money for the replacement of the wooden fence rails and posts that have deteriorated. All were in favor of this, so Cindi will prepare the paperwork.

OPEN/EXPOSED GRAVES: There is a new hole in brick vaulting in a grave in the rear state portion. Cindi has reported this to the state. In addition, she has been in touch with Amy Mendelson, colleague of our engineering consultant, who has a degree in historic preservation. Amy has agreed to meet Cindi at the cemetery to look at this and any other endangered graves for suggestions on how to remedy these issues for free, such as student projects.

Cindi also reported on a concern by Jayne Doukas Willey for the grave stones of her mother's grandparents. These are John Henry Timmons and wife Anna Lettie, located on Chapel Lane side of front section. She claims they are unreadable, dirty, and feels that it is the chapel or committee's responsibility to correct the problem and replace a missing flower vase. Jayne claimed that the church had always taken care of the grave and put flowers there. Sandie reported that as long as she has been associated with the chapel, since 1980, the chapel has never cleaned any monuments, nor taken care of any vases or

flowers. According to our regulations, the family is responsible for correcting the tombstone and flower issues. We have already voted to amend rule #13 to clarify that the town reserved the right to remove outdated flowers, decorations, etc. Cindi will send her a letter and copy of rules and regs.

#### WARD LANE ENTRANCE:

In response to the Friends complaint and offer for free repair of the huge mudhole at the entrance at Ward Lane, it was necessary for the town to contact the state regarding this issue. Sandie explained that Mark Phillips, a member of the friends, who does this type of work for a trucking firm, has offered to drain the hole and fill it with crushed concrete, which would sufficiently solve the problem, all of this free of charge. He offered to do it in time for next Sunday's program at the chapel. This is a big concern. Cindi has contacted the state. Betsey Gant, Horticulture Manager advised that we would have to wait until they decided how to proceed and they would get back to her. Cindy will continue to contact them this week to see if they would allow us to at least fill the hole as short term remedy for the program. The Friends would like to repair the hole if only a temporary measure. The drive is on the state portion of the property, even though this drive is the entrance for the cemetery as well.

With no other business at hand, Paulette moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Patti and all were in favor. Adjournment was at 3:04 p.m. The date of the May meeting is to be determined later.