Truro Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2024 and July 23, 2024
Truro Town Hall



Present 7/17: Bob Masson, Cemetery Commission Holly Ballard-Gardner, Cemetery Commission

Jonathan Sperber, citizen

Called to order at: 8:55 am

Approval of Officers

Mr. Masson motioned an affirmation of officers: Ms. Gardner to maintain the position of Chairwoman and Mr. Masson as Treasurer and Record Keeper. Ms. Gardner seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 15, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Masson motioned to accept, Ms. Gardner seconded, all in favor. Minutes signed and passed into the record.

Activity Report

Mr. Masson reported burials since the last meeting include Swanson and Bednarek. McCutheon is recorded as having died. It is unclear from the estate executor if her cremains are to be buried in her plot in Pine Grove Cemetery. Mr. Masson presented the Statistic Report as of June 18, 2024. Ms. Gardner motion to approve both, Mr. Masson seconded, all in favor.

Public Comment

An initiation was made to potential candidates interested in filling the vacant position on the Cemetery Commission to complete the remainder of the term expiring ATE 2025.

Mr. Sperber spoke regarding maintenance of the natural burial area at Old North Cemetery. He had read about the request for flat markers and asked that the commission consider allowing upright headstones, but without cement. Ms. Gardner noted that approval of headstones falls to the discretion of the Commission and his request for an upright marker on his plot in the natural burial area would be approved.

Old Business

Ms. Gardner reported that the Lecture and Tour of Saturday, June 1 was a success. Approximately 30 people attended the lecture at the Truro Library and continued on to Old North and Snow Cemeteries. The Truro Police Dept provided an escort to assist ingress and egress of the Old North Cemetery.

In the course of the tour, it was noticed that Charles Hawthorne's stone had fallen and would be re-erected as part of the gravestone repair project in July.

In the course of the tour, the tomb at Old North was opened for the first time in decades. Inside were several headstones (removed from the cemetery at some point in the past) some fencing material and miscellaneous religious icons of unknown origin. The tour participants had an opportunity to view the open tomb. It was secured with a new padlock.

New Business

Interview of potential candidates for the vacant position will occur Tues., July 23 at 5pm in a joint meeting with the Select Board.

The Commission is working with Brewster, Provincetown, and Wellfleet to deelop guidelines to help families safely conduct green burials. Information sharing is underway.

Ms. Gardner motioned for adjournment at 9:16am. Seconded by Mr. Masson. Adjourned.

Present 7/23: Bob Masson, Cemetery Commission

Holly Ballard-Gardner, Cemetery Commission

Select Board

In conjunction with the Select Board's regular meeting, the Commission interviewed two candidates for the open position: John Dundas and Jonathan Sperber. In a unanimous vote, Mr. Dundas was selected.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Ballard Gardner, Secretary

Bob Masson, Treasurer