

CEMETERY COMMISSION SECRETARY'S REPORT 01/20/2015

1. ATTENDANCE AND ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Cemetery Commission was convened on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 6:30pm, on 120 Washington Street. All members were present, including Patricia Donahue, Ruth Kapnis, Jacqueline Eng, Joanne Mizioch, and Anthony O'Donnell. Ron Malioneck, assistant director of Public Services, was also present. The Commission voted to appoint Ruth Kapnis as Secretary for the Board.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. There was a short discussion from board members prior to our vote on allowing dogs in satellite cemeteries, as a much longer discussion was held on the previous meeting where we met with many dog owners from the Broad Street Cemetery. Pat Donahue reemphasized the need to preserve our Historic cemeteries. There were no concerns raised from the audience pertaining to this vote. When a vote was taken, the board voted unanimously to NOT allow dogs in any satellite cemeteries which include Charter Street Cemetery, Howard Street Cemetery, Essex Street Cemetery and Broad Street Cemetery. Dogs on leashes will be allowed in Greenlawn Cemetery only, because of roadways and paths where it is possible to keep dogs away from graves. The present sign will be removed and replaced with a new one which reads "NO DOGS ALLOWED".

B. Ron Malioneck, our Superintendent, updated us on the Chapel doors and noted that the company doing the restoration removed the doors in December, shipped them to Connecticut where they were sealed and unwarped. He mentioned that they were ahead of schedule in

restoration. We will send a Thank you letter to the Salem Five Bank/Heritage Foundation and Friends of Greenlawn for making the chapel door restoration possible. Concerning Record Conversion, Ron stated the process is done electronically with 90 % backup already completed. There is one complete set of records on PC.

The posting of Rules and Regulations of Cemeteries, Chapter 16 of city ordinance is on the City of Salem Website. One has only to click on “Cemetery Commission” and it will be available. Under Cemetery Rules of Etiquette, previous rule “Dogs must be kept on leash and off of graves at all times” will be changed because of vote taken. Wording will be discussed at next meeting.

C. The board discussed concerns from Ron Malionek’s previous meeting with Salem Historical Tour president. In the audience were three representatives from tour groups in Salem. Giovanni Alabiso, president of Salem Historical Tours, Tim Maguire from Salem Nite Tour and Harry Potter Theme Stores, and Jeff Page who runs Bewitched After Dark Walking Tours on 180 Essex Street. They are all concerned with the growing vandalism they see in the historic cemeteries and would like to help decrease it. Whatever project we decide, they will help out and that included funding. Some suggestions were cameras, lights , signage. We agreed about the necessity to focus on other historic cemeteries also, not just the tour destinations. We agreed to check with the City Solicitor in regard to setting up a trust for donations.

D. A Presentation by the Planning Department of the historical grant update for the Chapel was given by Larry Spang, architect for Arrowstreet Architecture and Design and Natalie Lovett from the

Planning Board. A power point presentation was given by Mr. Spang who showed needs to be addressed concerning the chapel.

1. Doors replaced (under Salem Five grant)
2. Accessibility issue – need accessibility –at corner?
3. Vines growing and doing damage – (these have been removed)
4. Masonry on southwest corner buttress
5. Flashing needs replacing
6. Chimney in poor shape
7. Interior – most of deterioration here is on outside wall
8. Cleaning of dark wood, and wood floors
9. Long term goals – work needs to be done on stained glass, wood on windows needs repair

Ron Malionek stated that stabilizing the building is the first and most important issue.

Natalie discussed our eligibility to apply to the CPA for a grant to be split between the Mass Historic Commission and CPA.

3 NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10,2015 at 6:30 pm.

4 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kapnis, secretary

