

Cemetery Commission MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2008

Meeting called to order at 4:03PM by Chairman Upham.

Members present: All present (Commissioners Mr. Brad Bates and Mr. Richard De Moranville)

Guests present: Authors Jean Douillette (**Lakeville Massachusetts Gravestone Inscriptions 1711-2003**) Kenneth Leonard (**Beachwoods Confederacy**), Ms. Kimberly McDonald, Ms. Rhonda Roberts (**Old Cemetery Enthusiasts**) and Mr. Darrel P. Wixom (**Wampanoag Historical & Cultural Consultant**).

Minutes of Meeting held on May 14, 2008 were read and approved.

Unfinished BUSINESS:

1. On- site visit of Indian Shores Cemetery on May 24, 2008 reported on by Mr. Leonard and Ms. Douillette.
In summary their report, based upon official records and personal observations indicate that the headstones of Thomas and William Smith, presently leaning against a tree, have been removed from their original location. The original burial location is unknown at this time. Additionally, both Smiths have vital records showing their marriages to Natives and themselves being of color and of native descendents. Their lineage is indisputable as presented by Mr. Leonard with a detailed genealogy graph verifying his findings of descent and agreed upon by Ms. Douillette and Mr. Wixom. Their families and descendents lived and were buried in the same general area of Betty's Neck and on Land owned by the Town of Lakeville, originally The Mitchell Property now identified as the Lakeville Town Forest. Further investigation is required to determine the original burial location of the Smiths. Both authors will keep the Cemetery Commission informed of the ongoing investigation. Report accepted.
2. Donation of a Parcel of Land for Cremations Only by Joseph Chamberlain of 48 Highland Road Lakeville.
 - a. Chairman Upham and Commissioner Bates met with Mr. Chamberlain at the proposed donation site located on Highland Road. It is considered suited to accept as a cremations only cemetery.
 - b. Chairman Upham contacted the State Capital, City Of New Bedford, Towns of Fairhaven, Freetown, Berkley and Acushnet to determine how cremations were handled. His visits to numerous cemeteries resulted in determining that:

- 1 .New Bedford, Fairhaven, Berkley, Freetown, W. Bridgewater middleboro and Acushnet have cemeteries with locations for cremations only.
2. There is no State Law preventing a "Cremations Only Cemetery".

Cemetery Commission Minutes of June 11, 2008, Continued:

3. Preparing the site could be accomplished by the Public Works Division.
4. Mr. Chamberlain is having the donated property surveyed.

C. Burial spaces would be determined by ground or columbarium allocation.

D. Chairman Upham presented the commissioners photographs of the sites he visited and of the Columbarium located at Riverside Cemetery in Fairhaven. This cemetery also has a "Scattering Area" for remains which could be a consideration for the Town of Lakeville.

E. Hand-outs of Columbarium's and price lists to include cemetery pricing for services of all cemeteries in the local area were given to the commissioners to review before the next scheduled meeting. Report accepted.

3. **Cemetery Assignments:** Commissioner Bates divided the cemeteries between the three Commissioners. Each Commissioner will report on his respective cemetery monthly. Approved.
4. **Pierce Cemetery:** Chairman Upham on June 10th 2008 spoke with Ms. Jill Romano at her home located at 5 Adams Lane, Berkley 02779. She had reported earlier that teenagers were drinking alcohol at the cemetery after dark. Chairman Upham explained MGL S#114, S42A which allows anyone the authority to visit cemeteries during day light hours (8:00AM to Sunset). Ms. Romano stated that she has had no further problems with night visits since asking the board for assistance. She thanks the Board for helping her.
5. **Ward and Hafford Cemeteries:** Commissioner Bates reported that a large tree has to come down at Ward Cemetery. He has contacted a climber who is bonded, as equipment would be very difficult to get in there. Also there are 2 more trees that need to come down. Everything has to be cut up and then taken out in a smaller vehicle. Commissioner Bates will meet with the climber and check the budget to see what money is available. On the Hafford Cemetery he reported a tree down

across it. Also the sign is incorrect. He is going to see how much it will cost and where the money is to do this job. The sign is on the to do list.

6. **Cemetery Signs:** Chairman Upham was unable at this time to find anyone to paint, repair or make cemetery signs for free, donations or for community service. He will continue to pursue this.

CUMMUNICATIONS:

Page 3, Cemetery Commission Minutes of June 11, 2008, Continued:

A Notice of Intent was received from Outback Engineering, Middleboro, MA. It is dated June 9, 2008 and regards the removal of a Cranberry Bog located near the Thompson Hill Cemetery and the property of Le Baron Residential LLC. Filed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Guests Ms. Kimberly McDonald and Ms. Rhonda Roberts made a complaint to the Board regarding their not being able to visit Indian Shores Cemetery on May 23, 2008. They stated that they were both interested in researching cemeteries for historical purposes and purchased Jean Douillette's book. They had visited many of her descriptions with Indian Shores not visited. Upon arriving in the vicinity of the Lakeville Town Forest they were stopped by a man (unknown) who asked them to leave as it was private property. Another resident of the area joined to verify that they were on private property. Chairman Upham volunteered to escort the woman to the site when they were able to do so. The Commissioners tabled this matter.
2. Chairman Upham reported a violation by Ashley Funeral Home in not obtaining an Interment Certificate before conducting a burial. The Commissioners voted to have the Chairman send a letter reminding them of their responsibility.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Bates 2nd by Commissioner Demoranville

After having no further business the motion to adjourn was made and carried: This meeting was adjourned at 5:18PM .