

Cemetery Commission MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2009

Meeting called to order at 4:100PM by Chairman Upham.

Members present: Commissioners Richard De Moranville. Commissioner Bates excused.

Guests present: See attached sign in sheet.

Minutes of previous meetings to be read at the February 11, 2009 meeting.

Unfinished business: Indian Shores Cemetery and the theft of a footstone.

This meeting has been voice taped. The tape recording placed in the Cemetery Commission File and attached to this meeting minutes with supporting documents. A brief summary of this meeting is as follows.

Chairman Upham gave a background of the issue. 4 cemetery stones, 2 headstones and 2 footstones belonging to the Smith brothers were shown to him in June 2008 lying against a tree in the swampy part of the Town Forest. As this was not a standard practice for natives Chairman Upham requested an investigation to determine where the original burial place of the Smith Brothers was. Authors Jean Douillette and Kenneth Leonard were asked to do the investigation.

Between September 20, 2008 and October 17, 2008 one footstone was stolen by person/s/ unknown. A report of the theft was given to the Lakeville Chief of Police on December 19, 2008.

On October 22, 2008 the remaining 3 stones were entrusted into the custody of Darrel P. Wixom, a descendent of the Smith brothers for safe keeping.

During the period June through November 2008 Kenneth Leonard obtained numerous documents from many sources proving that the 4 stones had been moved from the Nachomet Housing Area to the present Town Forest location. Who moved the stones is unknown. Mr. Leonard presented his findings to the Cemetery Commission at an open meeting held on January 14, 2009. He showed the construction at the site and the probability that while this area was being leveled the stones being in the way were removed. Also he found that a burial mound adjacent to the stones was leveled.

A meeting will be called in the near future by the Wampanoag Nation. At this meeting the re-location of the stones to a suitable location will be discussed.

There being no further business a motion by Commissioner DeMoranville to adjourn, 2nd, approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15PM

Next meeting to be held on February 11, 2009, 4:00PM, Town Hall Conference Room.