



CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2024 at 4:00PM

Meeting held in person at City Hall in Conference A
1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, NH

Members Present: Co-Chair Susan Sterry (Sterry), Eva Boice (Boice), Celeste Brooks (Brooks), Steve Buzzell (Buzzell), Michael Griffin (Griffin), Duncan MacCallum (MacCallum), Sue Polidura (Polidura), Peter Splaine (Splaine)

Absent: Co-Chair Dee Dee Forte

Staff Present: Suzanne M. Woodland, Deputy City Manager / Regulatory Counsel (DCM) via Zoom

1. Call to order at 4:03PM and roll call of the members as noted above.
2. Minutes: **Motion:** Polidura moved to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2023 meeting with an amendment to add "from dysentery" as noted in paragraph 4. Seconded by Boice. **All in favor.**
3. **Report of Co-Chair Sterry:** As an FYI, Sterry showed some pictures of the ground penetrating radar machine. She also showed pictures of the impact of the recent flooding at the Point-of Graves Cemetery. She also shared pictures of the much-improved condition of Hall Cemetery after the tree-clearing and provided an update. DCM has written a letter to the State regarding approval to upright and repair headstones. Sterry mentioned possibly having a re-dedication ceremony of Hall Cemetery in the late summer timeframe.
4. **Dinah Chase Whipple:** Committee discussed status. Boice informed the Committee that Forte has researched prices on the headstone. Boice said she will follow-up on the types, along with firming up cost and time frame information. The topic of fundraising was discussed. DCM will set up a zoom meeting with the family, representatives of the Cemetery Committee and invite representatives from local organizations to discuss fundraising for the headstone for Dinah Whipple. The descendants will be in Portsmouth in the May 18 or 19, 2024 timeframe for events at the Moffatt-Ladd House and by the Black Heritage Trail. Sterry made a motion to have the memorial service on either May 18 or May 19, 2024. Splaine seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion withdrawn and restated. **Motion** by Brooks that barring any conflict, that the memorial service would take place on May 18, 2024 or May 19,

2024 and if a conflict arises, that the Committee will determine an alternate date.
Seconded by Boice. **All in favor.**

5. **Report on Ground Penetrating Radar at North Cemetery:** Sterry advised that the results of the Ground Penetrating Radar are not yet available. The results will be shared when available. She is also continuing to obtain information about geology students from UNH who will investigate the ground water table at the Points of Graves Cemetery.
6. **Social Media Templates:** Brooks provided an update on potential posting to Atlas Obscura, which is a user contribution-based platform where you can post information about unique and off-the-beaten-path points of interest that would be of interest to tourists looking for something other than the mainstream to do in Portsmouth. Brooks offered to post through her account. DCM offered for her to send any mock-ups to Monte Bohanan and copy her and if she doesn't receive any comments, that she could launch the posting. The Committee will send Brooks additional suggestions for more postings.
7. **CLG Update:** Sterry reported on the status as a Certified Local Government.
8. **Cemetery database:** Sterry provided an update on the cemetery database.
9. **Sons of the American Revolution Request: Motion** by MacCallum to recommend approval of the event described by SAR to be held March 29, 2024. Splaine seconded. **All in favor.**
10. **Goals for 2024:** Sterry distributed a list of goals for 2024 and spoke about fundraising efforts.
11. **Public Comment:** None
12. **Next meeting:** Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 4:00PM.
13. **Adjournment: Motion:** Brooks moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Polidura. **All in favor.** Adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Minutes prepared by:
Barbara Zulkiewicz

Minutes Approved: March 7, 2024