

Cemetery Commission Meeting  
Minutes - Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Present: Susan Brown, Chairman, Andy Kelly, Elizabeth Villard, Debbie Manley-Smith, alternate, Jack Collins, Town Labor Attorney, Jenifer Morgan, Cemetery Superintendent, her attorney, Theodore Saulnier .

The minutes for the June 16, 2015 were accepted as written. ✓

Motion made by Andy Kelly, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Liz Villard that the Commission accept the letter from Jen Morgan's physician and have a copy put on file with the Personnel Office. She is to return to work immediate. ✓

Motion passed unanimously

Andy reported that the Highway truck has not yet been transferred to the Cemetery Commission as they are waiting for their new truck to arrive. Jen Morgan was asked to get the current Cemetery truck inspected. ✓

The old American flag at New Westside has been replaced. ✓

Liz Villard announced that the dedication of the new plaque at the Jeffers Lane will take on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> as part of the Chappaquiddick Wampanoag Annual Naming Ceremony. Everyone should have received invitation to the event and to lunch afterwards at the Chappaquiddick Community Center. ✓

Alan Gowell, Martha's Vineyard Memorials will install the plaque tomorrow (Wednesday.) The final cost of the plaque with installation is \$2,900. There are already pledges of \$1,200 towards that expense. (Commission \$500, Anonymous, \$500, Liz Villard \$200.) Liz Villard will contact the tribe and people who have families buried there about donations to support this project. \$ 1100 still needed ✓

Adam Darack's busy summer schedule has prevented his posting the information about the Jeffer's Lane cemetery. ✓

### Superintendent's report

*New employees Dan is working Mon/Tues/Thurs from 8-4. Teo is only working random hours, generally Tues and Fri fro a few hours here and t here. They both learned quickly how to use push mowers and weed wackers and are going a great job.*

*She has paid remaining bills from FY2015. All bills regular, minor expenses.*

*She requested and received signatures for payroll.*

*Sick Leave*

Andy Kelly and she will work with the Personnel Board to resolve the issue of her sick leave last winter.

*Perpetual Care account has a balance of \$7,000 available funds. (There is additional money which cannot be spent.)*

The Commission has been using these funds to pay for capital projects which is slowly reducing the funds in this account. The Commission discussed the need to increase the funds by 1) a request at a Town Meeting or 2) asking the Town to dedicate at least some of the money from the sale of grave plots to long term maintenance. Andy Kelly will discuss this question with the Finance Committee as well as the possibility of increasing the season workers' salaries and purchase a new truck for the Cemetery

*Surveying. Kenny Abbott surveyed New Westside and staked out 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He said there was land remaining for maybe 5 more avenues.*

*\$5,000 article for new mowing equipment. I spoke with Morrison's Power Equipment in Plymouth and they will sell us two tractors with mulching kits purchased and installed and delivered by Cape Cod Express to the Cemetery for \$5,064.00 I spoke with Juliet in the Procurement Office to ask if there was anything I needed to do to dispose of the two old tractors. She said as they have little or no value I can dispose of them in whatever way I chose.*

The Commission authorized Jen Morgan to go ahead with this project.

*Willoughby Stone \_ Debbie Willoughby has spoken with Alan Gowell about a stone she found on the internet that she would like to get for her daughter. There is already a headstone on the lot of in NWS and this stone would be behind it and in line with the flat markers on either side of it. According to the "rules," there is not to be more than one raised headstone but after looking around in the same area, there are a few stones in place where there other stones also exists.*

The Commission agreed to have Susan Brown and Debbie Manley-Smith make a site visit to the area and report back to the Commission at next month's meeting.

Liz Villard suggested that Debbie be allowed to be vote on this issue as Debbie is much more familiar with NWS than Liz is.

*West/Erdman Stone – Alan Gowell is preparing the site offset a foundation for the custom-made stone sculpture for his mother, Joyce West Erdman. They would like it in place for her service on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is not a typical looking headstone, but according to its dimensions, it fits within the rules of heights and width.*

The issue of this stone came up last spring, but was never resolved because of the ongoing personnel situation. The Commission agreed that while they were uncomfortable with the stone, it was too late to do anything about it.

The Commission agreed that there was a clear need to update the Cemetery rules. Jen Morgan will send the Commission a list of the existing written and traditional rules by August 1<sup>st</sup> for discussion at the next meeting.

#### New of Chappaquiddick Town Cemetery

The cemetery on Jeffers Lane was traditionally known as the Indian Burial graveyard. When the Town took it over in the 1970, it was renamed Hilltop, but no one I sure why that name was chosen. At the advice of Pam Dolby, Liz Villard will conduct an informal survey of what name people connected with the cemetery or who live on Chappaquiddick would like used.

The meeting was adjourned.

Note Jen Morgan's attorney contact information

Theodore Saulnier

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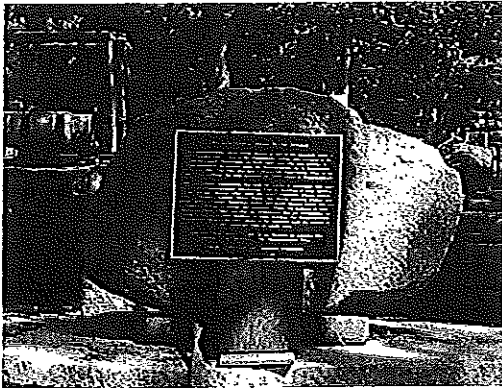
## Chappaquiddick Indian Burial Ground

The Chappaquiddick Indian Burial Ground is part of the ancestral lands of the Chappaquiddick Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation, was included in the Cleared Lands Reservation on North Neck, and was later allotted to Chappaquiddick individuals under the Massachusetts Act to Enfranchise Indians of 1869. The tribe also held a Woodlands Reservation. Prior to the arrival of the settlers, the tribe occupied the entire island of Chappaquiddick.

There are sixteen gravestones that mark the graves of individuals who were part of the Chappaquiddick Wampanoag Tribe or members of their families. These include Charles, John, Lydia and Susan Webquish; William Belain; Lydia B. (Brown) Gardner; Sarah, Gladys and Harriet (Belain); Matilda and Moses Jeffers; Francis Goodridge; Robert and Sarah (Brown) Martin and her husband, William A. Martin; and Lawrence Prince, the husband of Love (Madison) Prince. There are also ten gravestones that are unreadable, but probably belong to other members of these families. The Chappaquiddick Wampanoag believe that field stones in the cemetery mark the burials of their ancestors from an earlier time.

Kutâputush Numanutmun (Thanks to our Creator) for inspiring this memorial to our ancestors - The Chappaquiddick Tribe.

Erected by the Edgartown Cemetery Commission



CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT  
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2015

- New employees -- Dan is working Mon/Tues/Thurs from 8-4. Teo is only working very random hours, generally Tues and Fri for a few hours, here and there. They both learned very quickly how to use the push mowers and weed whackers, and are doing a great job. *Paperwork?*
- Paid remaining bills from FY15 - *Lawyer costs*
- Need payroll signatures for 7/16 payroll ✓
- My sick time reimbursement - *personnel Board / set time meeting*
- Perpetual care account balance - \$7,000.00 - *Town meeting*
- Truck -- Should I get a sticker? Until we get something else, we need to use it to get to Tower Hill and Chappy.
- Surveying - Kenny Abbott surveyed in NWS and staked out 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and said there is land remaining for maybe 5 more avenues. Where are we going to get the money for the project? - *perpetual account*

- \$5,000.00 article for new mowing equipment – I spoke with Morrison’s Power Equipment in Plymouth, and they can sell us two new tractors, with mulching kits purchased and installed, and delivered by Cape Cod Express to the cemetery for \$5,064.00. I spoke with Juliet in the Procurement Office, to ask if there is anything I need to do to dispose of the two old tractors. She said that because they have little to no value, that I can simply dispose of them in whatever way I choose. The older one is burning oil and smoking badly, which the mechanic said means the engine is ready to go.
  
- Willoughby stone – Debbie Willoughby has spoken with Alan Gowell about a stone she found on the internet that she would like to get for her daughter. There is already a headstone on the lot in NWS, and this stone would be behind it, and in line with flat markers on either side of it. According to the “rules”, there is not to be more than one raised headstone, but after looking around in the same area, there are a few stones that are in places where other stones also exist. What do we tell her?  
*Liz - Recindes*      *TABLED to next meeting*
  
- West/Erdman stone – Alan Gowell is preparing the site to set a foundation for the custom-made stone sculpture made for his mother, Joyce West Erdman. They would like it to be in place for her service on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is not a typical looking headstone, but according to the dimensions, it fits within the “rules” of height and width.