

PEMBROKE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

June 1, 2023

Minutes

Present: James Garvin, Adam Mendoza, Ellen Paulsen (chair), V. J. Ranfos, Zachary Sawyer, Fleda Young.

1. Chair Ellen Paulsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. The minutes of the meeting of May 11, 2023, were approved as submitted.

New Business:

3. The Commission discussed the proposal made by Ayn Whytemare of the Pembroke Historical Society at the meeting of May 11th. Ayn proposes to conduct a historical tour of Pembroke Street Cemetery, next door to the Whittemore Homestead, on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon toward the end of October 2023. She wants to concentrate on Revolutionary soldiers who may be buried there, researching five or six of the soldiers for special interpretation.

Secretary Jim Garvin reported that he had sent Ayn a list of all Revolutionary soldiers who are known to be buried in Pembroke together with a list of all known veterans buried in Pembroke Street Cemetery. He also suggested that Ayn might research the Revolutionary Pension Records at the New Hampshire Historical Society to learn the details of service for selected soldiers and mentioned that the 1895 *History of Pembroke* might supply further information in its Chapter 12 ("Pembroke in the Revolution") and in Volume II, which provides genealogies of Pembroke families.

The Commission concluded that the Pembroke Historical Society does not require any special permission to develop and conduct a tour, but asked Secretary Garvin to write to Ayn to offer further help and suggestions if needed. The Commission also suggested that the Historical Society might inform Concord *Monitor* columnist Ray Duckler of the event and invite him to do an article on the tour.

Old business:

4. The Commission discussed potential requests to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee for 2023, including a scan of areas of Buck Street Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery by Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR). Secretary Jim Garvin reported that he had received a reply from GPR contractor Bob Perry stating that the formerly quoted price of \$2,500 would remain unchanged for 2023-4. Mr. Perry asked for directions to the two cemeteries so that he could inspect the areas for his own planning.

The Commission reviewed the suggestions of rebuilding of the split granite retaining walls of the three driveway gates to Evergreen Cemetery and placing signs at each of the three gateways that will indicate that the driveways and roads of the cemetery are closed to motor vehicles from dusk until dawn, during the frost period, and after heavy rains as stated in §155-70 of the Pembroke Town Code.

*Note: On June 2, the day after the meeting, the Commission received a notice from Town Administrator David Jodoin stating that 1) CIP funding requests should be limited in 2023 because the town's surplus funds are rapidly diminishing and 2) that all CIP requests must be submitted no later than **July 7th at 4:00 p.m.** July 7th is four days **before** the next regular meeting of the Cemetery Commission.*

5. Chair Ellen Paulsen reported that the installation of veterans' flags in Pembroke Hill Cemetery by Cub Scouts went well. The scouts were respectful and careful.
6. Ellen Paulsen and Zachary Sawyer reported that the order of forty new flag holders match our formerly purchased aluminum holders and are satisfactory.
7. Zachary Sawyer discussed the tipped monuments that he had previously noticed and photographed in Pembroke Street Cemetery. In order to facilitate a plan to deal with these monuments, possibly using General Maintenance funds, V. J. Ranfos gave Zachary a number of pin flags with which to mark the locations of the tipped stones. Zachary also mentioned removing an overhanging branch on the adjacent Whittemore lot that interfered with one flag holder.
8. The Commission discussed the numerous plastic flowers and other ornaments that have recently been placed at the grave of Ryan Mihill in Evergreen Cemetery as reported and photographed by Dan Chase. Secretary Jim Garvin will try to locate Mihill family members and write to them asking for the excess ornaments to be removed or consolidated on the lot and citing the town's cemetery regulations regarding temporary decorations or mementoes.
9. V. J. Ranfos and Adam Mendoza presented updates on projects discussed at previous meetings.
 - a. No one has yet seen the nighttime appearance of the solar-powered flagpole light installed at Pembroke Street Cemetery as a test.
 - b. The driveway paving and culvert installation at Pembroke Hill Cemetery by Advanced Excavating and Paving is completed and satisfactory. V. J. Ranfos reported that the contractor removed pine tree roots beneath the driveway wherever possible. Ellen Paulsen will review the existing gate for possible repainting.
 - c. The Commission discussed the broken zinc marker for Nathan K. George (1873-1903) near the Badger-Appleton Tomb at Evergreen Cemetery. This metal marker appears to have been damaged by a vehicle using the pathway in front of the tomb. Zinc markers are difficult to repair, but this marker possibly could be soldered or brazed.
10. The next meeting of the Pembroke Cemetery Commission will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at the Public Works headquarters on Exchange Street in Suncook Village.
11. On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Garvin, Secretary