

PEMBROKE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

August 13, 2015

Minutes

Present: James Garvin, Donald Hill, V. J. Ranfos, David Richards (chair), Fleda Young.

1. Chairman Richards called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Hall.
2. The minutes of the meeting of July 9, 2015, were approved.
3. V. J. Ranfos reported that there is no further progress to report regarding removal of the pine trees in Evergreen Cemetery. There has been no further communication from the professional forester. No work can begin until the ground is frozen.
4. David Richards reviewed his suggested amendments to Chapter 155 (Cemeteries) of the Town Code. Jim Garvin will type up Dave's suggestions and some of his own, and will distribute the edited chapter to the Commission for further comment and editing by other Commission members.
5. Jim Garvin reviewed his meeting with the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee on July 15th. He noted that he presented the list of Cemetery Commission requests that was attached to the Commission minutes of July 9, 2015. He explained to the CIP Committee that there is a potential for the town to acquire land for the expansion of Buck Street Cemetery, and that the proposed \$5,000 fund needs to be held in reserve for the subdivision, surveying, and layout of the addition to the cemetery.

During the meeting, chairman Gerard Fleury observed that the CIP Committee lacks the authority to approve or disapprove CIP requests; the Budget Committee has that authority. Mr. Fleury noted that the proposed \$5,000 fund would need to be a capital reserve fund with the Board of Selectmen designated as the "agency to expend" the fund. He also noted that someone needs to identify the statute that authorizes and requires such funds to be used as intended.

6. V. J. Ranfos reported that Mrs. Janice Symanski's son has not yet paid for the two lots he wishes to acquire adjacent to Lot 20-A in Evergreen Cemetery. These lots are presently available for sale to any purchaser.
7. The Commission reviewed a case of a late indigent resident of Pembroke whose cremated remains require burial. The Commission reviewed Chapter 155 (Cemeteries) of the Town Code and found no guidance on indigent burials. The Commission agreed that we should address a letter to the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and/or the Director of Welfare to seek guidance on provisions and expenses of indigent burials and locations in the public cemeteries that may be used for such burials. Once resolved, these

matters should be referred to in our proposed revisions of Chapter 155 (Cemeteries) of the Town Code. Secretary Garvin will send such a letter as soon as possible.

8. V. J. Ranfos reported that the Dr. Henry Munroe lot in Evergreen Cemetery has received a flag holder and a flag.
9. V. J. Ranfos reported that a veteran's lot with a military marker at the corner of the northern road in Buck Street Cemetery needs a flag holder and a flag.
10. V. J. Ranfos reported that there are broken branches near the Annis lot in Evergreen Cemetery that are too high for the town to prune. Collins Tree Service will remove these branches at a cost of about \$280.00.
11. V. J. Ranfos reported that members of the Paulsen and Keith families, who have family members buried in Old North Pembroke Cemetery, wish to meet with the Cemetery Commission to talk about questions regarding the cemetery and family burials in it. Among their interests are the missing gate from the cemetery.

Jim Garvin reported that he took custody of the wooden cemetery gate years ago when it lost one of its pintles and was inoperative. This gate is available for repair or replication if interested parties wish to follow the old pattern.

Jim Garvin offered to send these minutes to Jeanne Keith as a means of inviting the families to attend a future meeting in September or October.

12. The current mowing contractor has proposed to repoint and repair the Badger-Appleton Tomb in Evergreen Cemetery at a verbally estimated price of \$3,000-\$3,500. Jim Garvin noted that repointing of historic brickwork needs to be done carefully, and with an appropriately soft mortar; he suggested that if the Commission wishes to pursue this under a future budget, we should develop specifications for the job and issue a Request for Proposals to masonry contractors who have experience in historic brick masonry.

Don Hill reported that Grace Forrest places flowers at the tomb and is a descendant of Major William H. Appleton. Dave Richards noted that Brevet Major William H. Appleton (1845-1912) of Suncook was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallant action at the siege of Richmond during the Civil War (see attached 2002 Press Release). Ms. Forrest should be consulted on any proposed repairs to the tomb.

13. The next regular meeting of the Commission will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Hall.
14. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin
Secretary

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PEMBROKE CEMETERY COMMISSION ON THE BADGER-APPLETON TOMB, May 22, 2002

On Monday, May 27, 2002, at 11:00 a.m., the Pembroke Cemetery Commission and local veterans' organizations will honor a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient whose gallantry has been forgotten for ninety years.

Brevet Major William H. Appleton (1845-1912) of Suncook was awarded the Congressional medal for gallant action at the siege of Richmond during the Civil War. At Major Appleton's death, his coffin was placed in a tomb in Evergreen Cemetery on Buck Street, near Suncook Village. The tomb displayed no hint of the honor the soldier had received half a century earlier.

Two years ago, Mrs. Phyllis Longver of Webster, the Camp Historian of J. S. Durgin Camp #7, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, learned that a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor was buried in Pembroke. Mrs. Longver asked the Pembroke Cemetery Commission for help in locating the grave. Commission members researched cemetery records and newspapers, and confirmed that Major Appleton was interred in a brick tomb bearing only the words, "Badger-Appleton."

Mrs. Longver, who devotes her efforts to marking the graves of forgotten Civil War soldiers, offered to obtain a small bronze tablet identifying the tomb as the resting place of a holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor. The U. S. Department of Veterans' Affairs provided the tablet at no charge, and Perry Brothers Monument Company of Concord mounted the plaque on the tomb as a donation to the town.

Local veterans' groups will hold a brief ceremony on Memorial Day to pay long-overdue tribute to Major Appleton's heroism. The Pembroke Cemetery Commission has invited Mrs. Longver to unveil the tablet.

For further information, contact: Howard Robinson
 Chairman
 Pembroke Cemetery Commission
 (603) 485-2177

Mrs. Phyllis Longver
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END