

PEMBROKE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING
October 13, 2010
Minutes

Present: Patricia Bonenfant, James Garvin, David Richards (chair), Roland H. Young, Jr. Also present were Jason S. Wise of Wright-Pierce in Portsmouth and Norman Bonenfant.

1. Chairman Richards called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Hall.
2. The minutes of September 8, 2010, were unanimously approved.
3. Chairman Richards read a draft of a letter that he has prepared to deliver to town administrator David Jodoin. The letter notes that the Commission has received a very advantageous quote of 66¢ each for two gross (288) of stick flags from Jerry's Flag Store in Providence, Rhode Island, with shipping paid by the supplier. The letter notes that we currently have only about 30 new flags in storage for next year. Stick flags last between two and three years in service before they are too faded or torn to display, so the Cemetery Commission urgently needs to re-supply itself with flags. We annually decorate about 190 veterans' graves. About 144 of our current flags are in their second year of service, and some are faded. On a motion by James Garvin, seconded by Roland Young, the Commission unanimously voted that David Richards should present this letter to David Jodoin.
4. Jason Wise reported on the Wright-Pierce cemetery mapping project, displaying both plans of various cemeteries (which he left with the Commission) and a Power Point presentation. The method of recording each cemetery is to take a series of digital photographs from various vantage points, using a tall pole to elevate the camera for a panoramic view. Using a software program, these photographs are converted to photogrammetry, creating plans that provide accurate locations for each object in each cemetery. The plans can be printed, or can be viewed on a computer screen, with added data on each burial, taken from the town's Crypt Keeper files, displayed on the screen for each lot. In some cases, the computer file also contains an actual photograph of the monuments.
5. Mr. Wise reported that his comparison of the actual position of monuments with the lot lines or grids on the older surveyors' plans has shown that in some cases the monuments have been placed outside the theoretical boundaries of the lots.
6. Mr. Wise suggests creating a cemetery website that would be linked to the Pembroke Town Website and would allow researchers to locate the data from the plans, from the Crypt Keeper files, and from other sources. The website might be made interactive, so that researchers could add further data known to themselves as possible

family members. The site could theoretically permit a distant user to search for a specific name and grave site even if the place of burial is not known initially to the searcher. Mr. Wise demonstrated this capability by searching for burials under the name of "Fowler."

7. The Commission encouraged Mr. Wise to work on such a website if its creation would be advantageous to Wright-Pierce as a demonstration of a new service that the firm could offer to other clients. The Commission thanked Mr. Wise for his time and effort in attending the evening meeting, and for showing such initiative in developing a wide range of ways by which his data could be of use to the town.
8. The next regular meeting of the Commission will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Hall, unless other urgent business arises before that date.
9. On a motion by Roland Young, seconded by James Garvin, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin
Secretary