

**Minutes of the December 2024 Harwich Cemetery Commission
Monthly Meeting at the Harwich Community Center's Channel I Studio**

December 12, 2024

Rob Thompson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
Cindy Eldredge, Rob Thompson, and Robbin Kelley were in attendance.

There were no minutes to approve.

CPC Article letter from Jan Moore: These are the monuments to be conserved: 16 need to be set, 7 have clean breaks to mend, 9 have two breaks, 4 have three breaks, 2 have four and five pins to be set, 62 monuments need to be straightened as well. We are asking for \$37,000.00. The Historical Commission approved the article.

The second article presented was for the Raised Platform Boardwalk Project. Amy Usowski would like the proposed trail to go further north to an area with more cedars. This area does not have a clear title. HCT Matt Sutphin has concerns about the title and he would like to have a better engineered map. Cindy made a motion to postpone this article until next year when we have all the necessary documentation. Rob seconded, unanimous vote.

Walk of Remembrance: We decided to have a 6 x 1 foot stone at the end of the walk. We will wait until the January meeting, when Steve is here also, to decide what to put on the stone. (Seal of the Town of Harwich, etc.)

Meeting with Steve Lipman: We discussed the mapping of the Walk of Remembrance on the cemetery software. Steve suggested mapping it so that the person walking can also hear the information on each monument. We need to wait for Steve to vote on this before going forward. Steve Lipman said it should take 3 to 4 weeks to do it. Our goal is to have it done before May Town Meeting. Steve Lipman also said he would speak to a financial acquaintance regarding funding.

Signs for the small cemeteries: Tom Blute needs to know where we want these signs placed. We decided to put the Smith Cemetery sign outside of the fence, the Harding/Ryder Cemetery at the back of the lot and Lothrop Avenue outside the fence as well.

We will plan to have a Pre-Planning Seminar in March with Julie.

In January we all need to be present to make decisions about transferring money to pay for the Walkway of Remembrance, etc.

Letter of compliance is ready. (May be edited) It will be up to Robbin to mail them out. We will focus on one cemetery at a time, with larger cemeteries divided into sections.

Approved on March 6, 2024, Meeting

We will let the public know we will be enforcing the rules and regulations at the Select Board Meeting, in the Chronicle and on Channel 8. This is for the safety of our cemetery maintenance crew mainly, and consideration of adjacent lot owners.

We received a quote from J & J Signs. We will need to finish the Walkway and then consider this.

The maintenance crew will do some cleaning and waxing of the signs. Pete is also putting the rods and plaques together with Lok-Tite on the Veteran's Markers for future use. (The Lok-Tite keeps the rod in place, so the threads don't get worn down by the wind moving them,)

Rob discussed using a different cleaner for monuments. We discussed having the maintenance crew do some cleaning if they had *downtime". Unfortunately, they do in rainy weather but that is not a project that needs to be done in the rain. In the winter the water is off, and it is necessary to do the cleaning properly". We discussed having a cleaning seminar for volunteers or a video to watch with instructions on how to properly clean the monuments. Rob suggested we have the tools available for volunteers".

Davy Tree surveyed all the tree work that needs to be done. Robbin would like for Russ Noyes from the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Service to look over the report to see what he thinks is necessary and possibly apply for a grant to get the work done.

The next meeting is Thursday, January 9, 2025.

Cindy made a motion to adjourn, Rob seconded, unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.