

Approved: 10/26/21

Paxton Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes from October 5, 2021
The John Bauer Senior Center, Activity Room
17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612

Present:

- ✓ **Chairperson:** Christopher D. Stone (CS)
- ✓ **Vice-Chairperson:** Joanna A.H. MacGugan (JM)
- ✓ **Clerk:** Brian Brosnihan (BB) (arrived at 7:25 p.m.)
- ✓ **Director of Public Works:** Travis Thibault (TT)
- ✓ **DPW Administrative Assistant:** Tiffany Sidhom

Guest: Anita Fenton (AF), Chairman, Paxton Historical Commission

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Subject	Discussion	Decision/Recommendation
Meeting Minutes	Review Meeting Minutes from the July 6, 2021 meeting	As (BB) was not present at the beginning of the meeting and there are corrections to be made, the Commission will defer this to the next meeting.
Mooreland Cemetery – Maintenance Update	(TT): Both cemeteries have recently been fertilized. Fall clean-ups will begin soon and water will be shut off at the cemeteries within the next month.	The Commission should anticipate paying 40% of the total cost, which will be approximately \$306, each time the cemeteries are fertilized. There were 3 applications put down this year; typically, there will be 4 per year.
Mooreland Cemetery – Information Cards	(TT): A spreadsheet of all questions pertaining to the old information cards (which were the method of record-keeping prior to the software) has been assembled; there are over 400 questions. Some are simple, some are more complex, and it will require going plot by plot in the cemetery.	DPW hopes to be able to tackle some of the list of questions this coming Spring.

Center Cemetery – Maintenance Update	(TT): Same as Mooreland Cemetery.	
Center Cemetery – Grave Markers Preservation	(CS): TaMara has 6 markers left to do out of the initial 47 that were chosen.	Before final payment for the work, the Commission will walk through the cemetery with TaMara to get an assessment on each grave marker that was repaired.
New Business	None	
Public Comments - Anita Fenton, Paxton Historical Commission	(AF): The Historical Commission would like to conduct a survey of the Center Cemetery to note each veteran and track whether repairs/replacement of their markers are needed. Worcester County Memorial Park is responsible for the actual markers, but the Historical Commission would like to keep track of when work is needed.	(CS): There is an existing list of all veterans buried in the Center Cemetery, which could be a good starting point. The Commission agreed this is a wonderful endeavor.
Email from Harry Klane	(CS): Received an email from Harry Klane of NDY Consulting in Worcester who would like to photograph stones in the cemeteries to be able to add them to a public database that he is creating. While photographing each stone, Klane will clean and trim grass around the stone, if needed, to get a better photo.	The Commission agreed to permit Klane to photograph stones in the cemeteries, stipulating that no chemicals be used and Klane does not interfere with burials or maintenance. (CS) will contact Klane to lay out some basic ground rules.
Mooreland Cemetery - Overgrown/ Unattended Lots	(BB): Would like to revisit the idea of identifying 5 gravesites a year that are unattended and obtain permission to remove overgrown shrubs. There are also at least two trees that are diseased or dead at Mooreland Cemetery.	(CS): Permission will be needed from the owners of the stone, if possible. (BB) will try to get pictures of the dead/diseased trees to provide to the Commission and (TT).

Next Meeting		Tuesday, November 9, 2021 or Tuesday, November 16, 2021. (CS) will confirm availability of Activity Room.
Adjournment		7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Tiffany Sidhom, DPW Administrative Assistant

RECEIVED
TOWN OF FALMOUTH
FALMOUTH, MA
OCT 15 10 35

From: harry.klane@klane.works,
To: cdsngencon@aol.com,
Subject: Re: Graveyard preservation project
Date: Sun, Oct 10, 2021 10:51 am

Thank you for your wonderful note!

Currently I'm in San Francisco this week for my son's wedding. I will return on the 18th and will contact you then. Just be assured that I am interested.

Best regards

Harry

Harry Klane / NDY
508.752.5548

On October 9, 2021 at 07:58:34, cdsngencon@aol.com (cdsngencon@aol.com) wrote:

Hi Harry, At our Cemetery Commission meeting this week we all agreed that it was a good idea to have you photograph our old gravestones.

We do have *Historic Gravestone Services* finishing up restoration of 47 gravestones in the center cemetery, Her work for this year should be completed shortly.

Have you had a chance to see the Farber Gravestone collection through the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester?

Please let me know when you plan to be in our cemetery, I would like to meet with you at some point when you are there.

Thank You,

Chris Stone, Chairman, Paxton Cemetery Commission

Subject: Graveyard preservation project

Hello! My name is Harry Klane and I am attempting to preserve all of Massachusetts' pre-1800 gravestones through high-resolution photography. About a month ago, this article was on the front page of the Sunday Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

I felt there was a good chance that you'd enjoy seeing what I'm up to now. If not, maybe you know someone who might find this project interesting.

Please let me know your comments and thoughts as we progress forward!

Best regards always,

Harry

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RECEIVED

DEC - 8 2021

TOWN CLERK
PAXTON, MA