

OLDE ANDOVER BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE

April 27, 2017 Minutes

Attendees: Mike Donnelley, Mike Kurdzo, Cathy Palazzi, Maria Tulman
Excused: Megan Buswell
Altrnates: Steve Fish, Bob Post
Guests: John Handfield, Will and Lisa Cornell 186 Chaffeeville Road, Storrs, CT
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Mike Donnelly called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. He swore our two alternates in following the pledge. At that time he seated Bob Post to replace Megan who was ill.

Additions to Agenda: No Additions or Deletions.
No Public Speak.

Approval of March 23 meeting minutes: Bob Post and Mike Kurdzo Passed

Report of Committee Officers:

Chair/Historian:

Mike D. introduced Will and Lisa Cornell who had looked at our cemetery stones that needed repairing. While Mike thought it was nine stones, the Cornell's told him there were actually 19 stones that needed to be repaired. Some were in immediate danger of falling over and perhaps breaking further. Lisa explained what she and Will do to repair the stones and they are very proud of their work and are happy that Andover is close to them as they often travel out of state to repair stones. Lisa said after assessing our cemetery she says it is actually in excellent condition. Brown stones are Lisa's special project to work on. She enjoys working on them as she is an artist by trade. Lisa stated stones are quarried in Portland and silicus is used to make stones strong again – not cement. Lisa likened the brown stones in the cemetery as museum pieces. Will and Lisa will always be onsite to repair each stone and oversee all work. They guarantee their work. Brown stones are more expensive because they are harder to repair. Most stones would be under \$1000 depending on the extent of breakage. Lisa mentioned they do not use chemicals. Mike D. asked that the committee make a motion to allow him to work with Lisa and Will on this project to make the best use of our \$2000 grant that we now have. Cathy cautioned Mike that he should include Maria on this project as she is our Treasurer and will ultimately be giving the invoices into our Assistant Treasurer to be paid. Maria then made a motion to have Mike work with the Cornell's and she would advise as needed. Bob seconded. Motion approved. Lisa said their daughter and son work with them on these projects.

Treasurers Report:

Maria T.said she will submit another grant to OPM for neglected cemeteries when it becomes available. She was surprised that we had only \$80 in our budget line when she had received information that our \$2000 grant had been received. It was explained to

Maria that the town does not actually receive the OPM grant money ahead of a project but would be paid after the project is done. Andover would pay for the invoices at the conclusion of spending the \$2000 and the Assistant Treasurer would then submit the invoices to OPM and they will reimburse Andover the \$2000.

Old Business:

5a. Mike D. said the Boy Scouts are going to help clean out the leaves and debris from the winter at the cemetery on May 13th at 1:00 p.m. Mike said he would like to have people come and help. Mike said the public works will not remove the poison ivy but will spray the area. Bob Post said he would try to clean out the poison ivy.

5b. This item was covered under Lisa's report to us.

5c. Mike said our committee had been reorganized to five members and two alternates on April 5th at the BOS meeting..

5d. Sign has been repaired and is back up at the cemetery

New Business:

6a. Michael Merriam has volunteered to teach and help us straighten the leaning stones in the cemetery on Saturday, May 6 at 10:00 a.m. Mike suggested we straighten three stones each Saturday when we meet. Dates to be discussed. Roots are spreading and pushing the stones up. Soon the stones will fall over and break.

6b. This item was covered under Lisa and Will's talk.

6c. Spring clean up

Mike said this item was covered by the Boy Scouts coming.

6d. Stone cleaning events this year

Mike D. said Megan is in charge of stone cleaning events.

6e. Memorial Day – May 29th

Mike gave a copy of the Veterans buried in the cemetery for their Memorial Day committee brochure. The Memorial Day committee will place 38 flags in the cemetery.

6f. Forest & Park Trails Day

Mike D. applied to the Forest and Park Trails Day and said we were approved. On June 4th people walking the Rail of Trails would come down to the cemetery to see it and Mike D. will give tours.

6g. Cemetery History Publication

Mike D said he was compiling in booklet form approximately two dozen stories about the cemetery and would let us know when this was ready to be published. Mike said the 1st

edition will have information and stories about people. He will try to match each story with a stone and person.

6h. Fundraising

Mike is trying to get ideas on how we would do fundraising so that we can repair the broken stones in the cemetery. He mentioned there are state agencies that have given money to committees for such a project. He also mentioned “adopting a stone”. Cathy suggested once a fundraising project was decided on she could contact the RE and JI to put a story into their papers. Mike will let Cathy know. Steve thinks having a “talking with dead people” event might prove interesting. They had done a similar fundraiser at the Episcopal Church in Hebron and raised a lot of money. Cathy will talk to Georgette to try and get some details from her on this project. Mike wants Maria to be involved with the fundraising since she is our Treasurer. Cathy suggested Steve and Bob might like to help and become more involved. It was decided there will be a three person committee: Steve Fish, Bob Post and Maria Tulman. They will coordinate and report back to the committee.

6i. Mike would like the committee to give him ideas for his Fall Presentation. Cathy suggested we coordinate this with the Historical Society and get them involved.

Maria said she would like to have cookies and lemonade for the Boy Scouts when they clean up the cemetery. Bob offered to bring the lemonade and Maria will make cookies.

Next meeting to be Thursday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by Mike Donnelly. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted

Cathy Palazzi

Catherine Palazzi, Secretary