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**Town of Norton
Cemetery Commission
Report of Meeting
June 13, 2023**

Time: 4 PM

Place: Norton Highway Department@ 70 Rear East Main St., Norton, MA 02766

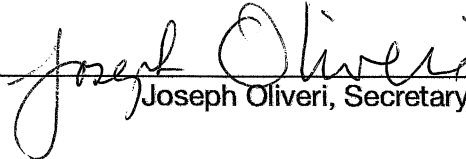
Members Present: Daniel Rich, Joyce Bernardo, Mary Ellen Stentiford, Robert Kimball, and Joseph Oliveri.

Other Participants: Keith Silver, Joshua Glaser, Jarrod Ferreira, Joanne Donofrio, Chuck Wetherall, and John Silva.

Chairman Daniel Rich called the meeting to order at 4 PM

1. Danny thanked Keith Silver who will be retiring next month for his many years of dedicated service to the town and, in particular, for all his guidance to the Cemetery Commission. We have been very fortunate to be able to work with Keith.
2. Danny also thanked fellow commission member Robert Kimball for all his efforts in advancing the objectives of the commission especially in securing funds for our projects.
3. Danny then introduced Chuck Witherell who has devoted a great deal of time and personal expense to restore the First Settlers Cemetery off Bay Road. Chuck then explained that his English ancestors from the time of the founding of Norton were buried there. When he endeavored to find their burial sites, he was disappointed at the poor condition of the cemetery. He initiated an effort to clean up the area and restore it to a proper appearance. Much has been done including clearing the area of weeds and overgrown brush. Vinca has been planted as a ground cover and a new iron railing will complete his task. Chuck has also indicated that the North Easton Savings Bank will donate money to build a kiosk for the cemetery. During the course of renovation, Chuck has immersed himself in Norton's history, spending a great deal of time at the Historical Society. Mr. Witherell has indicated that he will be writing a book about his work.
4. Bob Kimball met with local Representative ^{Ray} David Barrows and two delegates from the state Fish and Game commission in an effort to secure a right of way to the cemetery. They took his request under advisement, indicating a desire to work with us in the near future.
5. Danny initiated a discussion to recognize the work of Chuck Witherell. The commission agreed that we we should ask the Historical Society and or the Select Board to work with us in fulfilling that endeavor.
6. Mary Ellen told Chuck that if he needed more vinca that she has a great deal of it on her property and invited him to come and dig it up if he is so inclined.
7. John Silva has been doing similar work at the Winnecunnet Second Cemetery. He has found a grouping of 5 stones that he believes are foot stones. He has tried to find the corresponding headstones, but currently is looking for help and guidance to do so. Joshua Glaser indicated that he would be willing to meet with him to come up with some ideas. John further indicated his desire to work with the Cemetery Commission to insure that the right plan of restoration is in keeping with our rules and regulations.
8. Jarrod Ferreira has produced a laminated card to place on the headstones of families that have violated the rules and regulations of this commission.

9. Danny asked for an update on the contractor who has been hired to repair and clean the headstones. Joshua reported that although he is very meticulous, he has not made a great deal of progress. There is concern by the committee that he will not have finished his task before the October deadline when the contract expires.
10. We are still pursuing a black top contractor to repair cemetery roads, but at this time the estimates are too exorbitant.
11. Danny inquired about any possible impact of the merger of the Highway Department with the Water Commission. Bob did not foresee any issues at the moment although the town will be hiring an engineer to head the merger. This could possibly be a cost savings when an engineer would have had to be hired to fulfill future plans.
12. The Committee has agreed in principle to purchase a 24 inch Columbarium. A Columbarium is a structure for the reverential and usually public storage of funerary urns holding remains of the dead. This becomes a practical solution for the town as the number of cremations has increased substantially in the past few years. Further discussion of its location, cost of perpetual care, surrounding design, and most likely an adjustment to the Rules and Regulations will be on the next meeting's agenda. In the mean time, Jarrod has agreed to create several renderings of the Columbarium for our consideration.


Joseph Oliveri, Secretary

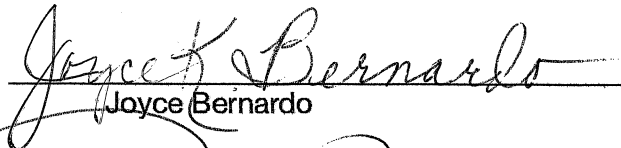
Approved:



Daniel Rich, Chairman

8/21/23

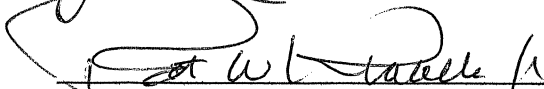
Date



Joyce Bernardo

Date

Aug 21, 2023



Robert Kimball

Date

8/21/2023

(abs)

Mary Ellen Stentiford

Date