

Historical Commission
Meeting of North Cemetery Subcommittee
May 8, 2017, noon
Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Building

Present: Elisa Scola, chair; Amanda Ciaccio, Ann Gordon, Kay Westcott

The meeting was brought to order at 12:04pm.

The group reviewed some of the recent history of work done in the North Cemetery, as well as recommendations in a comprehensive report written by Barbara Donohue et. al. in 2015.

- The North Cemetery is the site of the first meetinghouse and burial ground
- Ground penetrating radar was used to locate the first and second meetinghouses
- Oral history tells us that there were native American burial sites there
- The report gives us a broader view of what's going on in our cemetery and also the American habits around death
- In 2003-2006, markers in the older section, primarily dating to the 18th century, were repaired and restored; also in the South Cemetery. Later, similar work is being planned in the North Cemetery's Stoney Section, primarily 19th century graves.
- The report makes recommendations for continued preservation.
- We reviewed the recommendations, as well as suggested priorities compiled by Kay Westcott, to identify those we think are reasonable and attainable, such as:
 - Address mowing techniques, caretaking of the grass in ways that are consistent with preservation
 - Erect signage with rules
 - Enforce the rules about what people can plant in the cemetery
 - Make sure trash receptacle is well located and not distracting from landscape
 - Create a landscaping plan based on an arborist's recommendations, particularly for trees – both removing current trees and planting new ones
 - Orphan stones should be documented using a form and collected for short-term safe keeping until their appropriate location is identified through research
 - Ask DPW if the vaults are inspected for structural integrity
 - Ask if there is a disaster plan

We discussed forming a Friends of the North Cemetery group. Among other things, these volunteers could be trained by a professional to clean/maintain the gravestones. Perhaps the DPW's perpetual care fund could pay for this training. Kay Westcott said

she might agree to co-chair an effort to form the Friends group. Elisa Scola said she would raise the idea at a meeting of the Wayland Historical Society board.

Elisa Scola and Kay Westcott went to a recent DPW meeting to request \$4400 for South Cemetery restoration from their fund for perpetual care. The DPW agreed to the request.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gordon