

PRINCE GEORGE'S CEMETERY COMMITTEE MINUTES
MAY 2, 2009

The Prince George's Chapel Cemetery Committee met at the Dagsboro Town Hall on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Attending the meeting were Patti Adams, Bill Chandler, Gayle Chandler, Melody Chandler, Linda Ward, Margaret Morris, Jo Montague, Eleanor Banks and Sandie Gerken. President Melody Chandler convened and presided over the meeting .

After review of the agenda, Gayle Chandler moved that this agenda be approved. Margaret Morris seconded and the members voted to approve the agenda.

The minutes of the November 1, 2008 meeting were considered . Patti Adams moved to approve the minutes without additions or corrections. After Linda Ward seconded the motion, the members approved the minutes as read.

Representative for the town council, Patti Adams reported on the current Assets of the committee Total Current Assets equal \$120,702.04 with no known outstanding debt at this time. A copy of the full financial report is attached to these minutes. Sandie Gerken moved to approve the report of the treasurer. With Margaret Morris' second, the motion was approved.

There was no new correspondence to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

The members reviewed and discussed the cemetery committee's mission statement as currently developed, the bylaws regarding composition of the committee, qualifications for holding office and schedule for bi-annual meetings. Bill Chandler moved to adopt these regulations and mission statement. Jo Montague seconded the motion. The motion passed and the PGCC by laws were approved. A copy of this mission statement and by law regulations is attached to these minutes.

Discussion followed concerning the town website and publicity. As discussed , these proceedings are public and anyone interested can attend. Methods to publicize the meetings were proposed. Gayle Chandler will follow up on the suggestions of placing notices both in the town newsletter and Bethel UM Church newsletter as well as the Town of Dagsboro website at www.townofdagsboro.com. Sandie Gerken suggested asking permission to post a notice at the Frankford Public Library. Other suggestions were to request notices be placed on the upcoming schedule of events of WBOCTV website and on air, if possible. Gayle will research ways to advertise our meetings with thee above and with WGMD radio, the local newspapers, Coastal Point , The Wave. Any other suggestions will be welcome for discussion at the next scheduled meeting,.

Melody Chandler reported that her research paper on her work done at the chapel cemetery can be viewed online on the town's website, as well as tombstone transcriptions for the old part of the cemetery.

The next item for discussion was maintenance of the cemetery. Patti Adams reported that the grass cutting and cemetery upkeep is being provided by State of Delaware prisoners. The amount of the fee paid for these services was not available at this meeting. The condition of the fencing was discussed and Patti Adams reported that there is no need of any further repairs to posts and rails at this time. A brief discussion on the fragile conditions of some old tombstones followed. There is one tombstone that is now fallen over. There was discussion about the possibility of metal rails being used to support this and possible other stones in upright position. This discussion was tabled for the next meeting while this and other methods are researched.

As an aside, Margaret Morris advised on the grave stone of a slave, Luke Ricketts being located in the front section of the cemetery. We discussed a need to locate this stone and include this information in the cemetery transcription information being documented and made available to the public.

A report on new signage on the chapel grounds was made by Patti Adams. She mentioned that there is a new sign on the grounds for Prince George's Chapel which has been provided by the State of Delaware at no charge to the town or the Friends of PGC. Patti also reported on the One Way signs for Ward Lane, which are well posted, but still being disregarded by some. It was reported that Dr. Adkins had several notices in his office about the one way road, but some patients still disregard these. Linda Ward reported that there is also an arrow one way sign on her property to direct all traffic to Chapel Lane and the traffic light. It was suggested that this regulation be posted regularly in the town newsletter.

Melody Chandler reported on the ongoing cemetery gravestone project. Stones having been documented for the oldest portion of the cemetery surrounding the chapel, she is currently involved in transcribing stones in the older portion of the front section. As mentioned in the discussion about the town website, Melody's transcriptions are now available online at that site. We discussed the possibility of providing the cemetery transcriptions to the Delaware GenWeb Project. Sandie Gerken and Jane McComrick have now volunteered to assist with this project. Details will be presented at the next committee meeting. Also discussed was the lack of any information at the Salisbury University Nabb Research Center for Prince George's Chapel and Cemetery. A suggestion was made by Gayle Chandler that we also prepare documentation of this Gravestone Project to donate to the Nabb Center. No action was taken at this time to move forward with this suggestion.

The final topic to be discussed in Old Business was Burials and Permit Fees. At the recommendation of the Cemetery Committee, the Dagsboro Town Council had voted to increase burial fees to \$200 at their May 19, 2008 council meeting with the fees to go into the PRCC fund to be utilized for the perpetual care of the cemetery. A further discussion by the council at their November 28, 2008 meeting resulted in the adoption of an increased fee of \$500 for burial plot openings with \$250 being returned to the funeral homes once an inspection by the town regarding the removal of excess dirt that has customarily been deposited over probable ancient gravesites. Patti Adams reported that discussion between the town and local funeral director, Douglas Melson resulted in the recommendation that the council rescind this increase in funds and return fee to \$200. The increased fees would result in a burden for families of the deceased and logistically difficult for the funeral homes to comply. It was agreed that representatives from the town and funeral directors would find a mutually agreeable location in which to store

excess dirt which the funeral homes use to fill in gravesites when needed. With no formal motion made on the matter, it was the general consensus of members present that the \$200 burial plot fee be reinstated by the town. Further motions on this are to be considered at the next Town Council meeting.

Margaret Morris brought up the topic of possible new gravesites in the older section of the front portion of the cemetery located along Chapel Lane. Patti Adams reported that she knew of an imaging process that could locate any burials in this sections where there are no stone markers. However, the cost for such a process is very expensive. Further discussion on this topic was tabled for a future meeting of the committee.

There was no further discussion on fundraising due to absence of Bea Ennis, who had suggestions for ways to raise monies. Gayle mentioned the possibility of having a local artist do a painting of the chapel and offer prints for sale with a portion of proceeds to go to the cemetery committee. One artist mentioned was Constance Kollock. Idea was tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

According to our bylaws, the election of new officers is to be held at the first meeting of each year, namely the Spring meeting. Gayle Chandler moved that Margaret Morris be selected as the required representative for the Friends Of Prince George's Chapel. Linda Ward seconded this motion and the members passed the motion. Gayle Chandler nominated Patti Adams as the required representative for the Town Council, who is also to act as the committee treasurer. Margaret Morris moved to second this nominations and the motion was passed by the members. Gayle Chandler moved that Sandie Gerken continue as the secretary for this committee. Patti Adams seconded and the members passed the motion. Patti Adams moved that Linda Ward continue in the office of vice-president. This was seconded by Gayle Chandler and the motion passed. Sandie Gerken nominated Gayle Chandler as the new president of the committee. With the second from Linda Ward, the motion passed.

The officers of PGCC for 2009 are:

President:	Gayle Chandler
Vice-Pres	Linda Ward
Secretary	Sandie Gerken
Town Council	Patti Adams
Friends	Margaret Morris

Outgoing president Melody Chandler offered comments that she will be unavailable to serve this coming year due to a commitment to teach English in South Korea for next school year. She will be continuing to work on the Gravestone Project through late summer. The committee wished her well. She will continue to keep in touch with our activities.

With no other business for the good of the order, Patti Adams moved to adjourn the meeting. With second motion offered by Gayle Chandler and vote of members, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting will be in late Fall with exact date to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra H.Gerken, secretary PGCC