

East Providence Historic District Commission Minutes

September 11, 2024

In attendance: Deb Ormerod, Eric Underhill, Tom Warzeck, Kara Evans, Patrick Hanner-
Planning Department

- 1) Call to order: 6:33- 1st Deb, 2nd Eric
- 2) Correspondence - none
- 3) Approval of minutes: July 10, 2024, May 15, 2024
 - a) 1st Deb, 2nd Tom
- 4) New Business
 - a) Newman Cemetery condition assessment and maintenance plan
 - i) Report has been received from consultant David Taylor;
Commission members have many concerns that include:
 - (1) Poor quality pictures
 - (2) On some pages, there is more than one gravestone (should be one per page)
 - (3) Out of the 1894 stones in the cemetery, 300 were completed with a total of 225 sheets
 - (4) Not all info is correct
 - (5) Missing information for some
 - (6) Some section numbers listed are incorrect
 - (7) Incorrect estimates of stone repairs
 - (8) List of propriety stones will need to be adjusted in order to address the stones needing repair (ie Revolutionary War (109 in Newman), prominent and founding families)
 - (9) Completed stones are throughout the cemetery, not done section by section
 - (10) This project was to be used as a model for other state projects. In its current condition, this report should NOT be used as a model
 - ii) Appears contract was not followed or completed
 - iii) Patrick reviewed the process for the grant: single bidder for project; bidder was from Pittsburgh with extensive experience in completing historical nominations; total project was for \$10000, with City contributing \$2000 and grant for \$8000
 - iv) Charlotte Taylor (Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission) approved hiring consultant
 - v) Emails from Patrick and Sandra Turgeon have been sent to Charlotte listing the above concerns; to date- no response

- vi) Sections are made; need to be installed by city; Patrick would like to have Ernie Germani present for installation

5) Other Business:

- a) City-wide interpretive sign program
 - i) Signs are being printed
 - ii) Will then coordinate with city for placement and installation
 - iii) Dig Safe may need to be contacted
- b) Keep Metacomet Green (KMG)
 - i) Heather Andrade attended this meeting
 - ii) Expressed concerns about the work being done and work to be done on Veterans Memorial Parkway for The Met development about the boundaries of the Parkway; concerns there may be indigenous items
 - iii) Phase 1 of the archaeological study has been completed; Heather stated there were 65 indigenous artifacts found
 - iv) Kara clarified that all work must be stopped if indigenous/bones are found at construction sites
 - v) Patrick clarified that there does not have to be city approval to send in for nomination for National Register for Historical Places; would need to coordinate such nomination for Veterans Parkway with DOT since they are the owners

Other Business

6) Next meeting: October 9, 2024

6) Adjournment: 7:30, 1st Deb, 2nd Eric