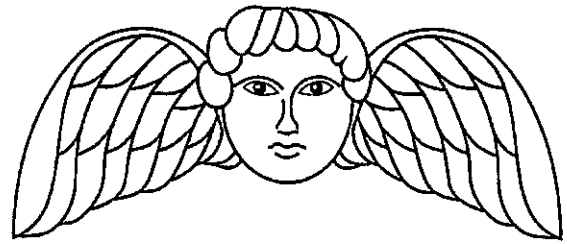


Historic Cemetery Advisory Commission 2022 Annual Report



The commission met twelve (12) times during the year.

Attendance is noted below:

Appointed commissioners: Elliott Caldwell-11, Lew Keen- 12(chair), James Lappin-5 (appointed to commission November), Janet Parkinson-9 (retired from commission October), Deborah Peart-4, Ingrid Peters-7 (retired from commission October), Jean Quinn-10, Theresa Stokes-5

Additional attendees: Robert Conway-9, Gus Cordeiro-1, Giles Eyre-1, Penny Fitch-1, Caitlin Green-2, Victoria Johnson-1, Brody Karn-1, Bert Lippincott-6, Andy Long-5, Martha Lyons-1, Patty Miller-2, Korey Morris-1, Meghan O'Neill-4, Julie Sweeny-1, Rob Vitello-1, Scott Wheeler-6

Ingrid Peters and Janet Parkinson have been valuable members of the commission since 2016 and completed their terms this year. Ingrid's wealth of knowledge and experiences in Newport helped guide decisions the commission made. Janet's editorial skills and willingness to pitch in when needed improved our presentations. The commission was fortunate to have the participation of these citizens and is very appreciative of their efforts.

Activities/accomplishments in 2022

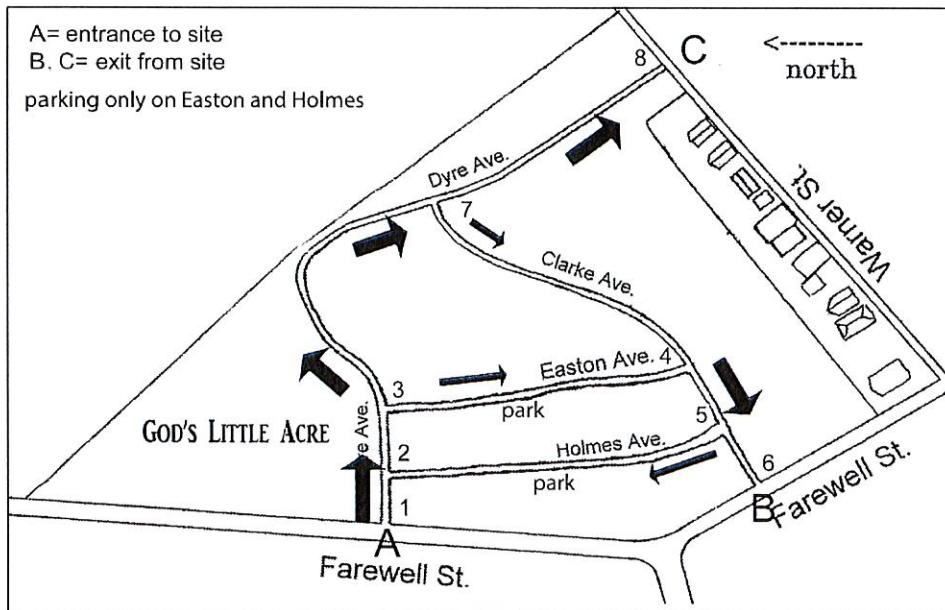
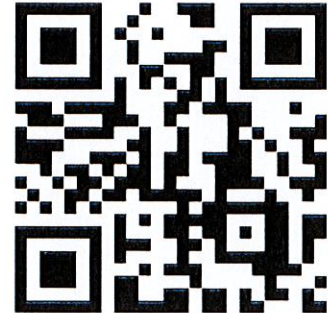
Stonework

1. **Stonework completed 123 stones:**
 - o Beyond the Gravestone (the official stone workers for the city) treated 102 stones;
 - o Volunteers Mary Jo Valdes and Korey Morris reset 21 marble stones in the Common Burying Ground. These stones were lying on the ground, having been dislodged from their original place.
2. Stonework by Beyond the Gravestone was masterfully accomplished. Their work schedule was significantly impacted by the lack of available workers.
3. Plans have been made to repair and stabilize the Albro Tomb (near Ida Lewis).

Community engagement

1. In April, the commission presented a review of 2021 work and events and shared plans for 2022 at a meeting in the Newport Public library. Commission member Elliott Caldwell presented information about Judah Touro.
2. The commission partnered with Island Cemetery to present **concerns** to the public about inappropriate activities in the Common Burying Ground and in Island Cemetery **related to dogs**. The concerns were dogs off-leash, dog waste not removed by the dog owner, and inappropriate parking. The commission and Island cemetery agreed to monitor the situation for 6 months.
3. Community **volunteer efforts** continued to improve burial sites in Newport. Starting in April, every slate stone in Clifton Burial Ground was cleaned. Gravestone cleaning continued in the Common Burying Ground and ended in late June. The staff of Embrace Home Mortgage in Middletown completed laying gravel on one of the paths in the Common Burying Ground and painted half of the fencing around the Anthony monument on Warner Street. This was the third year this group helped enhance the Common Burying Ground. Community volunteers completed the painting. Vegetation was removed from the Easton Burial site.
4. GLA Preservation Project (a 501c3) completed a **stone assessment** of every stone, 641, in God's Little Acre.

5. GLA Preservation Project commissioned a **Master Landscaping Plan** for the site. The commission and Scott Wheeler were involved in creating the plan. The plan was presented to the public in August.
6. GLA Preservation Project worked with Scott Wheeler and funded the **removal of aging Cherry trees** that endangered stones in God's Little Acre.
7. Ushma Shah and the team at Action Tours partnered with the commission to produce a **digital tour** of the Common Burying Ground. The tour is free to the public and downloaded to individual cell phones. (QR code included on this page)
8. **Open houses** were conducted in October at the Common Burying Ground and the Braman Cemetery
9. **Self-guided tours** were created and shared for the Clifton Burial site and the Braman Cemetery.
10. More than 500 copies of the **self-guided tour of the Common Burying Ground** were taken this year
11. The commission agreed on a traffic and parking plan for the Common Burying Ground.



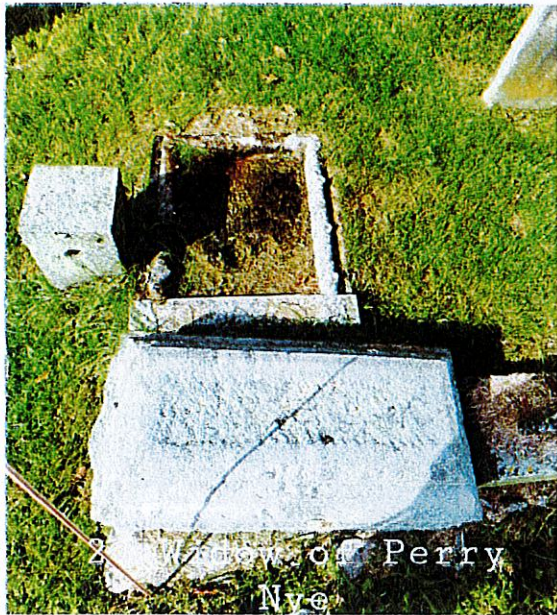
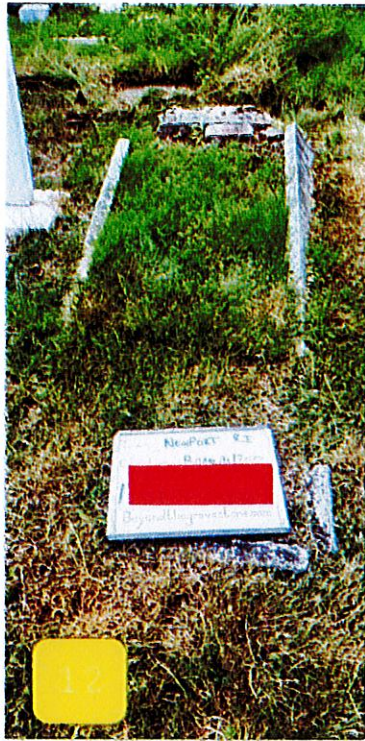
Issues and concerns addressed regarding dog related issues and the treatment of slate gravestones

1. When planning for stonework for 2022, the discussion of slate stones treatment resulted in the decision not to do any this season. Patricia Miller, Chief Conservator of the Preservation Society of Newport County and Giles Eyre, GLA Preservation Project, are researching the most recent treatment of slate stones and practitioners of these procedure. Based on their findings the commission will consider treatment of slate stones in 2023.
2. Concerns related to dogs in the Common Burying Ground were discussed at the November commission meeting. After some discussion, it was decided to continue monitoring the situation before making any recommendations to city council.

The commission is pleased to welcome James Lappin as a newly appointed commissioner. We look forward to the January appointment of another commission member.

We continue to be very appreciative of the support of the City Council and staff.

A few of the stones treated this year





Joseph Sharp

