

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes
Town Hall, Conference Room B
December 2, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Deron Murphy (Chair), Mary Louise Formisano (Vice-Chair), Jason Beaumier, Gene Dumas and Chris Feisthamel (arrived at 6:25 pm).

Others Present: Alan Clarke, and VFW members Quartermaster Alan Beaumier and Commander Rodney Leighton.

Staff present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner

VFW Check Presentation

Mr. Rodney Leighton, Commander of VFW Post #8018 and Mr. Alan Beaumier, Quartermaster, generously contributed \$200.00 to the Historic Cemetery Commission which Mr. Murphy accepted. Mr. Murphy and the other HCC members were honored, grateful and thankful to receive the donation and look forward to continuing its mission which is to preserve the rich history of the town, and the memory of the individuals that helped make it what it is today.

Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2014

Motion by Ms. Formisano to approve the November 6, 2014 minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Dumas. Approved 4 – 0.

Outcome of Eagle Scout's and Andy Perrin's EGHS projects

Mr. Murphy explained the Eagle Scout project held at Cemetery #13, the Joseph Fry Lot and managed by Mr. Zac Magiera, was extremely successful as fantastic progress was made by the entire 15 scouts and 5 adults. Mr. Murphy took numerous before and after pictures and it is now ready to be raked, mowed and sod. Mr. Murphy noted that he will attend Mr. Magiera's Eagle

Scout ceremony and the Town should issue a proclamation to him for a job well done.

As for the EGHS project, Mr. Beaumier and Mr. Dumas explained teacher Andy Perrin and his Local History Class were very successful at rehabilitating Cemeteries #48 and #47, although some students worked harder than others. Mr. Perrin was interested in doing another cemetery in the spring.

Mr. Feisthamel noted that Mr. James Deakin, a student of Mr. Perrin who is performing a cemetery restoration for his senior project, also restored Cemetery #24 with Michelle Place Gleason and about 6 volunteers in late November – this project was also very successful due to him using D/2 (a solution used to remove dirt and staining from gravestones).

Fall EG Cemetery Clean-Up Campaign – Clean-up for December 6th

The Commissioners discussed the cemeteries to be restored for the upcoming cleanup on December 6th – as of now Ms. Formisano has one repeat volunteer and one new volunteer. Although the weather forecast did not look promising for a cleanup, the Commissioners decided to finish off Cemetery #62. Mr. Beaumier was able to provide two passes to the Showcase Cinemas to one random volunteer as an incentive to acquire more people for the event.

Fundraising Opportunity

Mr. Beaumier suggested contacting Dave's Marketplace in order to have a HCC table set up to get more public recognition. Ms. Hitchen would need to receive permission from the Town Manager before any board or commission were to promote themselves in that type of manner.

State Cemetery Advisory Representative

Mr. Clarke informed the Commission that he is now aware of three more East Greenwich historic cemeteries, those being numbered 93, 94, and 95, which are located on the west side of Carrs Pond Road. Although more information is needed he strongly suggested preserving not only these three cemetery locations but other locations by decent signage. He explained that not all signage has to be the metal template sign but could also be a smaller non-descript sign, maybe half the size of the regularly issued sign or granite bound marker for those smaller cemeteries.

Mr. Clarke also recognized that the HCC should have a liaison to attend and monitor the larger corporate cemetery groups as they are badly managed. Lastly, Mr. Clarke suggested establishing an ordinance to make people pick up dog waste; a “curb your dog” sign.

HCC Bank Account Discussion and Action

Ms. Hitchen informed the Commission that the group received approval from the Town Solicitor, Town Manager and Finance Director to open a checking account to deposit donations and pay for expenses and could use the Town’s Tax ID to do so. The group decided to use Bank Newport as their bank of choice and the signatories would be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the commission.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.