

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes  
Town Hall, Conference Room B  
March 3, 2013  
6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Deron Murphy (Chair), Mary Louise Formisano (Vice-Chair), Jason Beaumier, and Gene Dumas.

Members Absent: Chris Feisthamel.

Staff present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner

### **Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2014 and February 3, 2015**

Motion by Mr. Dumas to approve the December 2, 2014 and February 3, 2015 minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Beaumier. Approved 4-0.

### **Future Cemetery Cleanups**

Staff advised the Commission that the Salve Regina “Stay Break” cemetery cleanup, scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup>, has been cancelled due to atrocious weather conditions.

Mr. Murphy announced his alma mater, James Madison University, has an annual Day to Give Back community service event which he will be participating in on April 11<sup>th</sup>. He will be restoring a local cemetery; anyone interested in participating are more than welcome to join him.

The Commission selected the following dates for the upcoming Spring Cemetery Cleanup Campaign: April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, and June 20<sup>th</sup>. All cleanups would take place from 9am – 12pm.

### **RIDEM Grant for 2015 Earth Day Cleanup Project**

The Commissioners unanimously agreed for the HCC to apply for an RIDEM Earth Day Cleanup Grant. The grant money would be used for

general funding to put towards the planned cleanup on April 18<sup>th</sup> with the work to be done on the cemetery behind Briarbrook Farms, Tillinghast Lot #18, as there is still a great deal of work to be done there. Funds cannot be used towards professional services (tree removal, landscapers, etc.) or food so the Commission can put the money toward general supplies related toward the cleanup.

### **State Cemetery Advisory Representative Report**

Mr. Clarke explained he has been publishing for the last couple of months due to the winter weather but plans to get back in the cemetery work and Grave Concerns as the snow recedes. He suggested installing iron fencing around some of the smaller cemetery plots; fence can be taken from his cousin's bird sanctuary. He volunteered to create a list of small cemeteries that would benefit from having a small fence added, as long as the homeowner approved. Mr. Clarke also recommended partnering with landscapers during the cemetery cleanups.

Mr. Clarke noted the Glenwood Cemetery is responsible for their trees and walls; it is headed by Grounds Committee member Bob Sawyer (rsawyer4@verizon.net).

### **Staff Report**

Regarding the update to the tree warden discussion, Ms. Hitchen explained upon further research she found that the tree warden now receives a \$25.00 per tree stipend to field observe, inspect and determine if the tree should be removed. (Per state law, public trees are not permitted to be removed without the approval of a tree warden.) There are still additional costs to actually remove a tree.

Ms. Hitchen noted the Planning Department has been making provisions to the perpetual easement and access to cemeteries; for example a minor subdivision located at 999 Tillinghast Road has a condition in the decision noting there is a 25' wide access easement for the purposes of ensuring ongoing maintenance of Historic Cemetery #66 (the Place Lot) – these documents will be recorded in Land Evidence records.

Mr. Murphy asserted he would be attending Zac Magiera's Eagle Scout Board of Review meeting next Monday (March 9<sup>th</sup>). He reiterated the Town should

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acknowledge Mr. Magiera's achievement of obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout at a Town Council meeting.

Mr. Murphy also noted he purchased a gas powered backpack leaf blower for his personal use but plans to use it at future cleanups.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Dumas, seconded by Mr. Beaumier.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.