

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes  
Town Hall, Conference Room B  
May 5, 2015  
6:00 p.m.

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

Others Present: Alan Clarke.

Staff present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner

### **Approval of Minutes – April 7, 2015**

Motion by Mr. Feisthamel to approve the April 7, 2015 minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Beaumier. Approved 5-0.

### **May 16<sup>th</sup> Cemetery Cleanup**

The Commissioners determined Cemetery 12 (Walter Spencer Lot) and Cemetery 18 (Tillinghast Lot) would be cleaned on May 16<sup>th</sup>. So far there are 12 volunteers and will most likely get a couple more people to help out. Mr. Dumas will be the liaison for #18 and Mr. Beaumier will be the liaison at #12. Ms. Formisano will send out the waivers, dos & don'ts of cemetery cleaning and also include a tick awareness attachment to the volunteers.

The June 20<sup>th</sup> cleanup will be cemeteries #4 and 10, located next to one another in a cluster subdivision. Ms. Formisano will draft a letter to the residents in the neighborhood about the June 20<sup>th</sup> cleanup.

On a side note, Sgt. Carter had contacted Ms. Hitchen and Ms. Formisano about juvenile community service hours; Cemetery #72 would be a great opportunity for community service hours to be completed and Ms. Formisano would pass along pertinent information to Sgt. Carter.

### **Update on Equipment and Assets**

Mr. Feisthamel noted that he may have someone interested in purchasing the John Deere riding mower. The Commissioners mentioned that considering the mower had been left out in the elements for a few years it is in fairly recent condition but will need new tires, a new battery and minor welding. The members estimated the mower, currently being stored at Lenny's repair shop, to have a value of about \$250.

Ms. Hitchen and Mr. Murphy prepared an inventory of current equipment and location of items. Staff will keep track of all equipment on an Excel spreadsheet. It was noted that all of the items purchased with the RIDEM Grant are currently being stored at Mr. Murphy's residence while the donated equipment is situated amongst three different locations. The Commissioners agreed it would be in everyone's best interest to consolidate all the equipment to one place.

### **Memorial Day Parade**

The Commissioners agreed to participate in the upcoming Memorial Day parade but wanted to be closer to the front than they were last year – they would ride in a convertible and only have a couple of signs. Mr. Feisthamel noted the Varnum Armory will be having an open house after the parade. Mr. Murphy will confirm with the Town Clerk that the HCC will be in the parade.

### **Demonstration of Gravestone Repair**

Mr. Dumas had reached out to Betty and Carlos Mencucci to see if they would be interested in a gravestone repair seminar. Mr. and Mrs. Mencucci agreed to visit Cemetery #23 (Payne Spencer Lot) on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am to repair the Bicknell (husband/wife) stones – one of the stones has a broken tongue from the headstone remaining in the pedestal. The Commissioners thought this would be a unique opportunity and educational experience to have restoration professionals repair two important headstones. Mr. Beaumier volunteered to prepare a press release for the EG Patch, Pendulum and N.E. Independent. Mr. Feisthamel volunteered to meet the Mencucci's at the cemetery to help setup.

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

Mr. Clarke updated the Commission about Cemetery #65 (Potter-Shippee Lot) located on Narragansett Electric property which he recently visited. Mr. Clarke had talked to the Monaghan's, residents to the south – there was a recollection that a neighbor took a few of the stones for a sidewalk years ago. He suggested the Commission ask the Town Council to investigate the matter and get an ordinance passed by the Town Council to make it illegal to take gravestones and or stones from the walls of cemeteries. Mr. Clarke also questioned whether adverse possession on utility company property is possible.

Mr. Clarke noted he visited Cemetery #20 (Vaughn Lot) recently which needs to have a large amount of bamboo removed. Mr. Feisthamel volunteered to help with the removal of the vegetation.

With regards to new signage, Mr. Clarke indicated there should be between 14-18 new cemetery signs arriving from the State soon; he plans on installing them himself.

### **Staff Report**

Ms. Hitchen informed the Commission the presentation made by Mr. Feisthamel to the Town Council for the request for funding went extremely well; she was optimistic the Commission would receive money.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.