

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes
Town Hall, Conference Room B
August 13, 2015
6:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Chris Feisthamel.

Others Present: Alan Clarke.

Staff present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner

Approval of Minutes – June 2, 2015

Motion by Mr. Dumas to approve the June 2, 2015 minutes as written.
Seconded by Mr. Beaumier. Approved 4-0.

Fall 2015 Cemetery Cleanup Campaign

The Commissioners identified September 26th, October 24, and November 14th as upcoming dates for the fall 2015 cleanup campaign. They noted Cemeteries 4 and 10 will be the kickoff cleanup cemeteries on September 26th as there is still work to be done. Mr. Murphy will assist Mr. Isaac Pontarelli, with Troop 1 in East Greenwich and needs an Eagle project, get started with restoring Cemetery #17 – he will be supported by 20-30 scouts; Mr. Murphy believes this will be a 2-week project.

Other cemeteries of note that will be of priority this fall include 72, 17 and 18.

Ms. Hitchen commented she would prepare and disperse the fall campaign flyer.

Salve Regina Service Plunge

Ms. Formisano informed the Commission that the Salve Regina students found an alternative service learning project but will keep in contact with the Commission.

Obtaining FY16 Funding Request from Town

Ms. Hitchen informed the Commission that in order to receive the Town contribution of \$2,000 from their budget Chair Murphy must prepare a letter requesting the money and submit to the finance director.

Update on Equipment & Assets

Purchase of Leaf Blower on Wheels – Table until next meeting.

Sale of John Deere – Mr. Dumas noted Steve Magiera has an interest in purchasing the riding tractor. Ms. Formisano motioned to approve the sale of the John Deere riding mower to the first offer of \$250.00 with the condition there be proof of the transaction. Seconded by Mr. Dumas. Unanimously approved.

Participation in August Main Street Stroll

Mr. Beaumier confirmed August 20th as the upcoming date of the next Main Street Stroll. The Commissioners agreed this is a great venue to gain visibility and agreed to participate again. Ms. Hitchen agreed to have the fall flyer completed. Mr. Dumas and Mr. Beaumier would attend and have the tripod and posterboard as well as signup sheets available cleanups. Mr. Beaumier would confirm the spot along Main Street where the HCC would be located.

VFW Donation

Mr. Beaumier suggested the Commission request asking for another donation from the VFW since the HCC was successful last year. Ms. Formisano volunteered to prepare the letter and Ms. Hitchen would put the final letter on Town stationary.

Declaration of Cemetery Awareness/Restoration Day

Mr. Beaumier had suggested there be an official decrement, or thought of declaring a “Historic Cemetery Awareness Day.” The idea would be to

promote and increase awareness of historic cemeteries, similar to that of National Cancer Week or Clerk Week.

State Cemetery Advisory Representative Report

Mr. Clarke updated the Commission on his recent observations – the recent storm split a tree and dropped large limbs onto a walled cemetery along Cedar Avenue. He took it upon himself to get his own chainsaw in to get the limbs to the ground. Mr. Clarke commented that every cemetery has its own story and its own circumstances and he would like to see the all the graveyard issues resolved by the time he “retires.”

Staff Report

Ms. Hitchen noted she is in the process of creating the HCC facebook page. She also asked for HCC assistance helping John & Mary Corvese find their ancestor gravestones.

Public Comment

Mr. Murphy acknowledged that he reached out to Mr. McMullen who has not yet responded to a prior email about a cemetery cleanup last spring.

Next scheduled meeting is September 1st.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Beaumier, seconded by Mr. Dumas. Approved 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.