

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes
Town Hall, Conference Room B
September 1, 2015
6:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Deron Murphy (Chair) and Chris Feisthamel.

Others Present: Alan Clarke and Danny Moone.

Staff present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner

Approval of Minutes – August 13, 2015

Motion by Mr. Beaumier to approve the August 13, 2015 minutes as written.
Seconded by Mr. Dumas. Approved 3-0.

Update on Equipment and Assets

Mr. Danny Moone, President of the E.G. Cemetery Corporation was present to inform the Commission about his interest in borrowing and possibly eventual purchase of the trailered leaf vacuum that has been sitting dormant since the HCC obtained it from the school department. Mr. Moone noted the leaf vacuum would be of great use to him and is currently in search of such type of apparatus; he can both house and maintain it in a utility shed on the E.G. Cemetery Corp. grounds and there are plans in the works to construct a new garage to store a larger amount of equipment in the near future.

Considering the HCC has not used the leaf vacuum; Mr. Moone needs a leaf vacuum and is willing to maintain and house it, the HCC members had no issue with loaning it out to Mr. Moone as long as the HCC could use it when needed.

Motion by Mr. Dumas to grant approval allowing Danny Moone of the E.G. Cemetery Commission to borrow on loan for a one year term, starting September 1, 2015 to September 1, 2016, the trailered leaf vacuum, which will be housed and maintained by the E.G. Cemetery Corporation. The E.G. Historic Cemetery Commission will be allowed to use the leaf vacuum when needed. This approved arrangement will be reviewed by the HCC in September 2016.

Seconded by Mr. Beaumier.

VOTE: 3 – 0.

Mr. Clarke will coordinate with Mr. Moone to get the vacuum to the new location.

The Commission noted that Bob Gauthier may be interested in the Steiner riding mower.

The purchase of leaf blower on wheels was tabled to a future meeting date.

Mr. Dumas confirmed the sale of the John Deere riding tractor took place and submitted the \$250.00 cash. Staff informed the Commission she would deposit the cash into the bank account and take care of the bill of sale between the HCC and Terry Brennan.

Fall 2015 Cemetery Cleanup Campaign

Ms. Formisano noted the database has about 115 volunteers. She plans on having 30 kids from URI participate in the October 24th cleanup. At this point 15 volunteers have signed up for the September 26th cleanup.

Long Term Strategies

In terms of long term strategies, Mr. Beaumier would like to see a tax credit created for those properties with historic cemeteries located on them. He would research a template model.

Ms. Formisano would like to see someone with a landscaping business get on the Commission as well as see more collaboration opportunities take place in terms of sharing equipment. She would like to develop captain-tiered criteria,

where volunteers who have participated in a significant amount of cleanups can have their own team of volunteers and manage their own cemetery cleanup. Ms. Formisano suggested the HCC get people vested in the process and identify and build relationships with landscaping businesses.

Mr. Dumas reminded the HCC about the language in the Town Charter; the DPW is supposed to be cleaning cemeteries.

State Cemetery Advisory Representative Report

Mr. Clarke is planning for permanent cemetery maintenance as each cemetery has its own unique situation and should be treated individually. He commented there should be an award given by the Town Council for any scout getting an award from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, etc. The Town Council should honor them and at one member of the HCC should attend the meeting. Mr. Clarke mentioned the restoring of Cemeteries of 4 and 10 should be made into a showpiece and inquired at what point, if any should a deed covenant be implemented.

Although not on the agenda, the Commission inquired about the November Veteran's Day Parade and whether they should participate. The answer was YES!

Staff Report

Ms. Hitchen noted the Facebook page is in process. The suggestion was made to add the Facebook icon to all flyers and HCC paraphernalia in the future.

To date Staff asserted there is \$352.44 in the bank account.

Next scheduled meeting is October 6th.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Beaumier, seconded by Mr. Dumas. Approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.