

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes
Town Hall, Conference Room B
March 1, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Deron Murphy (Chair), Jason Beaumier, Gene Dumas, and Chris Feisthamel.

Others Present: Alan Clarke.

Staff present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner

Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2016

Motion by Mr. Feisthamel to approve the February 2, 2016 minutes.
Seconded by Mr. Beaumier. Approved 4-0.

House Resolution 16R035 Proclaiming Saturday, April 16th, 2016 to be “Historic Cemetery Restoration/Awareness Day” in the State of Rhode Island

Staff presented the Commission with the formal House Resolution proclaiming April 16th Historic Cemetery Restoration Day. Mr. Beaumier mentioned there are a few communities who will be hosting cemetery cleanups in support of the Cemetery Restoration Day on April 16th.

Discussion of Spring Cleanups

Mr. Beaumier noted 10 volunteers have signed up for the March 26th cleanup. Cemetery 18, the Tillinghast Lot, located behind Briarbrook Nursery, was determined to be the main focus for the day to include stump removal, soil prep, raking and seed planting. “Prep. Seed. Hope!!”

Motion by Mr. Murphy to purchase up to \$200.00 worth of clover seed at Allen’s Seed. Seconded by Mr. Beaumier. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Clarke mentioned Cemetery #47 located at 346 Middle Road had fallen limbs with stone damage along the piled rock wall – this cemetery could use a cleanup.

The Commissioners suggested the April 16th cleanup shall consist of Cemeteries #72, 47 and 20.

Update on Alfred Timperly's Eagle Scout Project at Cemetery #20

Mr. Murphy noted he had met with Mr. Alfred Timperly a couple of week ago with regard to the update of his Eagle Scout project – he would have 10 volunteers for the cleanup and restoration of Cemetery #20 most likely on April 16th.

Update on Potential Equipment Purchase (Leaf Blower)

Mr. Feisthamel advised the Commission he has researched many places including Lowe's, Home Depot, Leafblowerdirect.com, Amazon, etc. for a decently priced leaf blower. He has found various models priced anywhere between \$349-\$600+; his target price is about \$250 which comes with an adjustable shoot, gas run and variable speeds. At this point Mr. Feisthamel prefers to keep shopping until he finds the right make and model.

Continued Discussion on Cemetery Guidelines/Responsibility/Owner Outreach

The Commissioners discussed properly educating all parties involved as being key to formulating decent guidelines. Ms. Hitchen suggested inviting a local commission who has more years of experience dealing with property owners, government officials, cemetery adoption programs, etc. instead of this commission reinventing the wheel so to speak – she noted the Friends of Smithfield Cemeteries have been a very active group who has been around for a number of years. Ms. Hitchen will invite the Smithfield Commission to the next meeting to have an informal discussion at the Varnum Armory with pizza provided.

State Cemetery Advisory Representative Report

Mr. Clarke provided Staff a list of cemeteries for the Special Projects Manager to rectify on GIS. (Ms. Hitchen would give the paperwork to Mr. Gomes.)

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Mr. Clarke has been busy lately updating and integrating new information into his database. He recently added a new sign to the Weaver Family Lot (Cemetery #76) behind Panera with Mr. Murphy as well as the Foster Lot.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.