

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes
Varnum Armory Museum
April 5, 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 – March 1, 2016

Motion by Mr. Feisthamel to approve the March 1, 2016 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Beaumier. Approved 4-0.

Discussion of Spring Cemetery Cleanups

Mr. Dumas announced he would not be available for the April 16th cleanup as he would be participating in an EG Preservation Society event.

To date there are 14 volunteers signed up for the cleanup, Mr. Beaumier would assign the volunteers to either Cemetery #72 or #20. Mr. Feisthamel is to pick up rakes and bags at Mr. Dumas homes morning of cleanup. Mr. Murphy noted the restoration work proposed by potential Eagle Scout Alfred Timperly has been pushed back to a date to be determined in May.

Financial Review

Ms. Hitchen noted the Town Manager has budgeted \$2,000.00 into the FY2017 proposed budget for the HCC. The Commission should be prepared to make a presentation in late April/early May.

Mr. Dumas submitted receipts from Dunkin Donuts in the amount of \$22.34 and from Allen's Seed in the amount of \$123.12; purchases were for the

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes

April 5, 2016

Page 2

March 26th cemetery cleanup. Motion by Mr. Feisthamel to reimburse Mr. Dumas for both purchases made. Seconded by Mr. Beaumier. VOTE: 4 – 0.

Motion by Mr. Beaumier to approve the purchase of pizzas for the open discussion with local cemetery commissions, not to exceed \$70.00. Seconded by Mr. Dumas. VOTE: 4 – 0.

Public Comment

Mr. Murphy has still been in contact with a resident on Hemlock Drive regarding some hanging trees in the rear of the homeowner's yard that could be on the Glenwood Cemetery property. Mr. Murphy will reach out to the Glenwood caretaker, Bob Gauthier.

Mr. Murphy commented he was contacted by the Town Clerk, Leigh Botello, inquiring as to whether the HCC was interested in participating in the Memorial Day Parade this year. There was a unanimous consensus the Commission would participate. Mr. Murphy would get back to Ms. Botello indicating the HCC would participate.

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

Open Discussion with Local Cemetery Commissions

Members from the Friends of Smithfield Cemeteries, Warwick Historic Cemetery Commission and East Greenwich Historic Cemetery Commission gathered for a group discussion to talk about common issues, compare town profiles, cemetery responsibilities and guidelines, cemetery adoption programs, private owner outreach and education, funding, and building relationships amongst other commissions as well as town residents and various parties who can contribute to cemetery restoration.

Attendees were enthusiastic about the dialogue of the evening and of the strong commitment and passion of commissioners/friends who have spent countless hours restoring cemeteries. Mr. Feisthamel offered to host a semi-annual cemetery commission meeting at the Varnum Museum.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.