

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes
125 Main Street
May 3, 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 – April 5, 2016

Motion by Mr. Feisthamel to approve the April 5, 2016 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Beaumier. Approved 4-0.

Discussion of Spring Cemetery Cleanups

The Commissioners noted the April 16th cleanup was very successful. At Cemetery #47 a great crew of volunteers came at varying times throughout the morning and was able to completely clean out not only the cemetery, but make a clear path and have it visible from the sidewalk. There were a total of 38 lawn bags filled along with a large pile of debris (trees, brush, briars) that were piled onto the sidewalk. There was time to straighten some stones and a foot stone was discovered. At Cemetery #72 there was a domestic turkey who hung around the volunteers; most work consisted of leaves being cleared. Bob & John reset about 5 stones – they did request fill to reset the stones properly. Mr. Feisthamel suggested providing Bob Chorney & John what they need in terms of fill, the HCC will reimburse them up to \$35.00.

Mr. Beaumier advised the Commission seven volunteers have signed up for the May 14th cleanup. Mr. Murphy said he may be able to obtain more volunteers from a beach cleanup he is attending.

The Commission chose Cemeteries #31 and #55 to clean on May 14th. Cemetery #31, located off of Sleepy Hollow Rd. would be the first choice and Cemetery #55 located on the open space, owned by The Woods at EG Homeowner's Association was decided as the second choice.

Mr. Feisthamel noted the Commission received a volunteer offer from Home Loan Bank to provide about 10 people to restore one of our cemeteries; their availability is May 9th thru May 13th from 9-5 on any of those days. The Commission recommended Cemetery #55 for the group to clean. Mr. Dumas noted he would be available to work with the group considering it was during the work week.

Purchase of Supplies & Equipment

Mr. Beaumier came across an alternative sign, with more information, to use instead of the "Join Us" signs the Commission has been posting during cleanups. Mr. Feisthamel knows someone in the sign making industry that could produce an enhanced sign. He also volunteered to create three "A-frame" signs which he would add the new signs to.

Mr. Feisthamel stated he had not done any further research on the leaf blower.

The Commissioners noted that Allen's Seed will sell pre-owned equipment; they thought this might be a good opportunity to vend the Billy Goat and Steiner that have been in storage not being used.

Update on Eagle Scout Projects

Mr. Murphy has been in contact with Mr. Alfred Timperly who will be restoring Cemetery #20 on Sunday, May 8th. He will be managing a group of scouts in three separate shifts.

State Cemetery Advisory Representative Report (Alan Clarke)

Mr. Clarke informed the Commission he has five cemetery signs that need to be installed. He reiterated his plan is to finish out his duties by the end of the year and be done with cemetery obligations. By the time he leaves each cemetery will have a sign. He would also like to have a detailed conversation with Joe Duarte, the DPW Director.

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes

May 3, 2016

Page 3

Mr. Clarke informed the Commission the Providence Public Library has acquired the James A. Arnold historic and genealogical collection of research material which includes photographs, field notes, genealogical charts and cemetery research.

Public Comment

Mr. Feisthamel summarized how the budget hearing request went with the Town Council noting that it went well and it appeared Mr. Duarte was on board with assisting the Commission remove a couple of large trees from cemeteries per year. He reiterated to the Council that our own tools are used during cleanups, the Commission needs another member and the Commission could use town support to enforce homeowner association cemeteries.

Mr. Feisthamel reiterated he still has an issue with people using Cemetery #62 as a place for them to take their dogs to relieve themselves. He firmly believes dogs should be banned from historic cemeteries.

The Commissioners were ready to go for the upcoming Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Clarke's truck and trailer would be used to support the float.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.