

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes  
125 Main Street  
August 9, 2016  
6:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Kathy Healey.

Others Present: Alan Clarke.

Staff present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner

Mr. Murphy informed the Commission Mr. Dumas resigned from the HCC in order to serve on the Board of Canvassers as he cannot serve on both boards. Mr. Murphy wanted to thank Mr. Dumas for the work he had done while on the Commission and all of his involvement with the clean-ups.

### **Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2016**

Motion by Mr. Beaumier to approve the June 7, 2016 minutes as written.  
Seconded by Mr. Feisthamel. Approved 3-0.

### **Outcome of June 25<sup>th</sup> Cleanup**

The cemeteries that were cleaned on June 25<sup>th</sup> were Cemeteries #55 (Robert Vaughn Lot), #63 (Spencer-Shippee Lot) and #64 (Joseph Carpenter Lot). Mr. Murphy noted Cemetery #63 is cleared out and has a few really nice stones in it. Cemetery #64 is located behind a great stone wall, and is also totally cleaned out; the next steps should be to repair and re-set the stones. Due to the location of #63 and #64 the debris taken out of those cemeteries was placed outside in the woods.

Mr. Feisthamel advised the cleanup at Cemetery #55 was thoroughly cleaned out and should be very easy to maintain going forward. The next steps will be

to engage the Homeowner's Association and secure their involvement in maintaining it with oversight from the Commission as well as do some work with the stones, some of which need to be re-set, cleaned and repaired. The pile of brush taken out of the cemetery was impressive and over 55 lawn bags were filled. A couple of neighbors appeared to be interested but no one showed up to help.

The Historic Cemetery Commission felt very fortunate to have the many volunteers from the Frenchtown Baptist Church and South Pointe Church groups help out.

Speaking of volunteers, the Commissioners would like to officially recognize David Imbriglio at an upcoming Town Council meeting for being a valuable volunteer – he is performs all the tough jobs at the clean-ups and is extremely reliable.

The idea of having a firefighter versus police cleanup was raised.

### **Discussion of Fall Cemetery Cleanups**

The following dates were chosen for the fall cleanup campaign: September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and November 19<sup>th</sup>. Depending on the weather a December date may be added.

The cemeteries to be restored on September 24<sup>th</sup> include #9, 21, 33, 72 and 84. The Commission will need to reach out to Mr. Bob Chorney to see if he would like to perform some stone work in Cemetery #72. For the October 22<sup>nd</sup> cleanup the Commission will focus on Cemetery #44. Looking ahead for the November 19<sup>th</sup> cleanup the Commission will focus on Cedar Avenue and Cemeteries #23, #24, and #25.

### **Discuss Possible Expenditures for Funding**

Mr. Feisthamel is still interested in purchasing a leaf blower; still researching the "perfect" machine.

Mr. Beaumier believes the time has come for the Commission to invest in a shed in order to properly store the Commission's equipment in one place as opposed to the current situation of the Commissioners storing equipment in private garages and basements. The Commissioners agreed and thought of

appropriate places to put the shed including the rear of the Varnum Armory and at Fire Station #2. The Commission desired a people presence where the shed was less apt to be vandalized or broken into as well as easy accessibility which ruled out DPW's Bear Swamp Road Facility since there are locked gates at that location. The issue with locating the shed at the Varnum's is setbacks and the shed would have to receive Historic District Commission approval before being constructed.

The Commission estimated a 8'x16' with 7' walls shed would be an appropriate sized shed to house their equipment. Staff would discuss the option of installing the shed at Fire Station #2 with the Fire Chief.

### **Long Term Cemetery Planning**

Discussion Tabled.

### **Financial Review**

There is approximately \$4,000.00 in the Commission's bank account.

### **State Cemetery Advisory Representative Report (Alan Clarke)**

Mr. Clarke has a new means of searching for East Greenwich cemeteries – a searchable Dropbox PDF which is called The Big & Evolving East Greenwich Cemetery Book; it should be a reasonable way to find almost anyone interred in any East Greenwich cemetery just by entering a last name. This is a compilation of Mr. Clarke's work as well as Mr. Bruce MacGunnigle, James Arnold, and Violet Kettelle. Mr. Clarke noted it is still a work in progress so don't bother printing it out.

Mr. Clarke is getting the Steiner fixed and hoping to get it sold to a landscaper.

Mr. Clarke told the Commission that Evelyn Wheeler from the State Commission spoke to the Town Council about adopting a tax rebate program for residents with cemeteries on their property; it appeared the Town Council was receptive.

**Public Comment**

Next HCC meeting is Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Commission will participate in the November 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day Parade.

Mr. Murphy believes the Governor signed into law banning dogs on the grounds of the RI Veteran's Memorial Cemetery.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.