

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

Members Present: Deron Murphy (Chair), Jason Beaumier, Kathy Healey and Chris Feisthamel (left meeting at 6:10 pm).

Others Present: Alan Clarke.

Staff present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner

Mr. Feisthamel noted he had to leave early due to a family commitment.

Ms. Hitchen asked Mr. Feisthamel if he could speak to the email that was forwarded to the Commission via Mr. Beaumier from Ms. Charlene Butler regarding Cemetery #62 directly behind his house which speaks of “men going through the grounds with metal detectors.”

Mr. Feisthamel explained to the Commission the gentlemen who had been metal detecting at the cemetery, one being the curator of the Varnum Armory Musuem. They did find a couple of coins, belt buckle and an ax head which have been placed on the stone wall. Mr. Feisthamel indicated he would personally reach out to the General Nathanael Greene – Pettaquamscutt Chapter of the DAR to deal with the situation.

(Mr. Feisthamel left the meeting.)

Approval of Minutes – August 9, 2016

Motion by Mr. Beaumier to approve the August 9, 2016 minutes as written.
Seconded by Ms. Healey. Approved 3-0.

Discussion of September 24th Cemetery Cleanup

The Commission acknowledged Cemeteries 9 and 72 would be cleaned as was discussed last month. Mr. Beaumier noted Ms. Robin Whittwer a faithful volunteer for the last couple of years will no longer be volunteering as she is moving to South Carolina. So far Mr. Beaumier had nine volunteers signed up for September 24th.

Letter of Acknowledgement

Ms. Hitchen prepared a draft letter of acknowledgement/recognition for volunteer Mr. David Imbriglio asking the Commission for their thought and comments. The commendation as drafted states: The Council thanks him for his time, hard work and dedicated service to the community. Mr. Imbriglio, a true role model citizen who is instrumental to helping restore numerous cemeteries, goes above and beyond, literally getting in the vines to find headstones, is a huge asset to the Town and does the “tough stuff” with a smile on his face. The Commission recommended the acknowledgement was great, could use the word “faithful” which Staff would add and submit to the Clerk’s Office as amended. Ms. Hitchen commented Mr. Imbriglio would receive the recognition at the September 19th Town Council meeting.

Location of Shed

Ms. Hitchen asserted she and Fire Chief Russ McGillivray visited Fire Station #2 on Frenchtown Road on August 29th. Chief McGillivray offered a decent and safe location for the HCC shed to be located – that being on the west side of the main fire station, 2’ in front of the rolling gates on the strip of grass, to the left of the double bollards. Ms. Hitchen was noted the Chief was happy to help the HCC find a suitable place for the shed but also wants to make sure conditions are followed such as no storing of equipment, lawn bags, or debris outside of the shed, no loitering before or after cleanups, no use of the fire station facilities, etc. The Commissioners had no objections to Chief McGillivray’s conditions.

Discuss Possible Expenditures for Funding

Table leaf blower expenditure as that item is Mr. Feisthamel’s research project.

Mr. Murphy asked the Commissioners to research sheds at various retail locations; a shed that includes one good sized door/single point of entry, windowless, has an 8' clearance and be about 8'x16' in size. At October's meeting the Commission will compare research and hopefully be able to make a shed purchase.

Long Term Cemetery Planning

The Commissioners would like to pursue a no dog walking in cemeteries as a similar ordinance passed in the RI Veteran's Cemetery recently. The HCC members suggested a \$500 fine or required community service with the HCC during a cemetery cleanup but acknowledged it would be hard to enforce on private property.

The HCC would also like to implement an adoption program and acknowledge those individuals, families and/or companies who maintain each cemetery with a sign at the cemetery. Mr. Murphy volunteered to draft language for such program.

Financial Review

As of the last received Bank Newport statement received there is \$4,274.32 in the HCC account.

Mr. Murphy noted the Commission will need more leaf bags before the next cleanup.

Motion by Mr. Beaumier for Mr. Murphy to spend up to \$200.00 on leaf bags. Seconded by Ms. Healey. Approved 3 -0.

State Cemetery Advisory Representative Report (Alan Clarke)

Mr. Clarke commented there are officially 95 documented cemeteries in East Greenwich now. He is calling it the Pine Farm Lot and it is located at 1140 Tillinghast Road; he is still performing research as to who is interred at this particular cemetery, could be family members, and probably not slaves.

Mr. Clarke added that he also likes the idea of people adopting cemeteries and getting recognition for it.

Public Comment

Next HCC meeting is Tuesday, October 4th.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Beaumier, seconded by Ms. Healey. Approved
3 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.