

Historic Cemetery Commission Minutes
125 Main Street
November 1, 2016
6:00 p.m.

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

Others Present: Robert Leigh, Assistant Scout Master of Troop 1 East Greenwich.

Staff present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner

Approval of Minutes – October 4, 2016

Motion by Mr. Beaumier to approve the October 4, 2016 minutes as written. Seconded by Ms. Healey. Approved 3-0.

Discuss Ideas for Eagle Scout Projects

Mr. Robert Leigh from E.G. Troop 1 queried the Commission as to any available projects for a couple of Eagle Scout projects noting one of the projects needs to be completed by April 2017 and was looking for projects with painting involved, repairing gates/fences, or a cemetery that has a trail to restore to access with the cemetery. The Commission recognized the past Eagle Scout projects which included the physical restoration of historic cemeteries and mentioned a few cemeteries such as #76, 56, 35, 4&10 and 8 which could be restored. Other ideas such as restoring a stone wall around a cemetery or erecting a brand new wall around a cemetery were other options that came to mind. The Commission also spoke of the option of performing a photo inventory of grave stones as a project; not as physical but more of an educational project.

Mr. Murphy said he would reach out to Mr. Clarke for advice as to other possible ideas. Mr. Leigh would take all the ideas back to the scouts and get back to the Commission.

Discussion of Fall Cemetery Cleanups

Mr. Murphy indicated a lot was accomplished at the October 22nd cleanup even though there was one volunteer in addition to Ms. Healey and himself – a lot of debris was removed from cemeteries #44 & 45 and both were opened up significantly. He noted the cleanup stated at Cemetery #45 where 9 yard bags were filled and they uncovered some stones. Mr. Murphy mentioned the Commission will definitely want to return to #45 as several of the stones are in need of repair/resetting. As for Cemetery #44, Mr. Murphy noted it was in pretty decent shape which has 5 stones – some trees were trimmed and branches were removed. There was a rather thick covering of pine needles which he did not want to disturb.

In terms of logistics for the November 19th cleanup the Commission selected the three cemeteries along Cedar Avenue (#23, 24 and 25). Mr. Beaumier stated three volunteers have signed up for this event.

Discuss Research of Sheds to Purchase vs. Shed Plans to Construct

Mr. Feisthamel noted he recently attended a Lions Club meeting where the idea of possibly having a community organization help the Commission construct the shed would be in the best interest of the Commission as opposed to the Commission purchasing the shed outright. He considered the idea of the shed construction be an Eagle Scout project or utilizing the Lions Club since their mission is to help others.

Discuss Possible Expenditures for Funding

Table for a future meeting.

Goals & Objectives for Cemetery Planning

Mr. Murphy asked the Commission members to brainstorm ideas and goals for the upcoming year. The following goals/ideas were presented: filling the current vacant position on the Commission, having a complete board & full presence; continue advisory role – push for a no dog walking ordinance in cemeteries and implementation of cemetery adoption program; continue to acquire appropriate assets & skills of refastening stones (continuing

education); (re)establish the juvenile program with Sargent Carter; simple outreach to homeowners with historic cemeteries on their property; potential tax abatement implementation; establish relationship & communication campaign regarding the awareness of proper cemetery care while also putting the onus on homeowner; and have another Historic Cemetery Restoration Day.

Financial Review

As of the last received Bank Newport statement received there is \$3,997.08 in the HCC account.

State Cemetery Advisory Representative Report (Alan Clarke)

Mr. Clarke was not present.

Public Comment

In order to honor the volunteers for their much appreciated hard work the Commission decided to have a Frank & John's pizza party at the next scheduled meeting, being December 6th, to be held at the Varnum Armory following a short meeting.

As in past practice the January HCC meeting will be cancelled.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.