

Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee Minutes For: **Tues. June 21, 2016**

Members Present: Sheryl Romasco, Jill Kenrick, Roy Henry, Beth Butler, Bill Martin, and Susan Ito.

Member Absent: Mary Brundage – absent because Mary is working as a CERT (Certified Emergency Response Technician) at the Uxbridge DPW to distribute water bottles to residents due to the E. Coli/town water supply situation.

Minutes of the May 17, 2016 Meeting, reviewed and approved.

Motion made by Beth to accept the Minutes of May 17, 2016, and seconded by Roy. 6-approved; Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Joseph Richardson Cemetery #14 – Update and discussion on the status of the cemetery in terms of earlier media coverage; resulting police department's identification of two young men identified; trespass and vandalism charges potential and May's Committee meeting with Chief Lourie, Fire Asst. Chief Steve Tancrell. and the Town Manager in seeking an estimate for monitoring cameras at the cemetery. Initial verbal estimate provided by Town Manager: ~\$4,500 to erect 6 monitoring cameras with access from a computer screen at Police Station, and \$300/per month company charge, or \$3,600 a year.
Discussion to possibly write/co-ordinate with New Uxbridge Times newspaper to get out a public news account as to status of the cemetery to date to "kick-start" any future donations for gravestone restoration. Deadline for next issue would be by/before July 15, 2016. Jill to make initial contact letters to TransCanada, N-Star (Eversource) and Spectra Energy.
2. Summer Maintenance/Mowing of Cemeteries -Discussion concerning the slow/lack of scheduled mowing by the maintenance team for the 16 cemeteries, normally maintained. Neighbor (Mr. Robert Gareri) to Quaker City Cemetery #23, has called Jill with his concerns, especially the amount of downed branches in the cemetery and that no mowing has yet occurred. It appears that only the Norden Cemetery#6 has been mowed, prior to Memorial Day. Family obligations/health needs are making it difficult to co-ordinate scheduling of these lawn mowing. Sheryl to investigate possibility of a contract with a local landscaping company. Problem is that mowing in a cemetery needs to use push lawnmower and grass trimmers, rather than the faster, but more damaging equipment traditionally used by professional companies. Also the need to keep the seasonal budget costs below or ~ \$5,000.

The Royal Taft Cemetery#12 – 35 Johnson Rd – The mowing for this cemetery can be removed from the list of those cemeteries done by the maintenance team. Jon White, a neighbor across the street from the cemetery has notified us that he and wife will mow this cemetery.

Jill and Sue to go to the Norden Cemetery # 6 to pick up old plastic flower pots and branches/sticks piled onto the stonewall frontage. Also will check out further the situation at Quaker City Cemetery in terms of picking up downed branches.

3. A. Mowry Tomb#26 – located at 672 Hartford Ave. Sheryl gave an updated status of the impending development plans for the surrounding property, currently underway at the Uxbridge Planning Board meetings. Plan now to develop a solar, ground-mounted facility on major portion of property and later, with several ANR housing lots, including a retreat lot next to the cemetery. Sheryl has been in contact with the applicant’s surveying/engineering company to be sure implementations that will affect the Mowry Tomb are expressed and understood.
4. Account Balances and Update of Donations Received – Sheryl reviewed the most recent statement of the historic cemeteries’ trust accounts and their balances, including 2016 Cemetery Donations.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Simon Richardson Cemetery#19- 175 South Street – Landowner surrounding this cemetery has issues a statement to all Town Departments concerning trespass without prior warrant/approval from the landowner. Discussion - that because this historic cemetery is not “neglected nor abandoned” that it is private and active, and so our Committee has no authority or oversight of this cemetery.
2. Contact Local Company for Flags and/or flag holders – Roy spoke with and recommends should we receive calls from family members needing these flags, etc. should find what they need at this store:
Owner: William Blois
All American Flag, Rte. 9; Shrewsbury, MA
Tel.# 1-508-797-3524 or website: www.wrbois@charter.net

Schedule of Next Meetings:

Tuesday, July 19, 2016 @ 10:00AM – Meeting to be held at Sheryl’s house – 19 Fisher Road.

Tuesday, August 16, 2016 @ 10:00AM – Meeting to be held at ...

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 @ 10:00 AM – Meeting to be held at...

Motion made by Sheryl to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 AM. Motion seconded by Bill. Voted Unanimous.

Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee

U.H.C.C. Meeting Minutes for June 21, 2016

Approved unanimously on Tuesday, July 19, 2016:

Sheyl Romano
Bill Martin
Beth J. Burt
Jill C. Kenrick

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Kenrick
Secretary
Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee