

Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee Minutes

For: **Tues. Nov. 8, 2016**

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

Absent: Sheryl Romasco

Call to Order:

Minutes of the September 13, 2016 U.H.C.C. Meeting, reviewed and approved.

Motion made by Beth to accept the Minutes of September 13, 2016 and seconded by Bill. Motion passes 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

U.H.C.C. Yearly Summary Report for the Annual Town Report: Committee's review and approval of the Committee's Summary Annual Report to be submitted to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the 2016 Annual Town Report.

Motion made by Beth to accept the 2016 U.H.C.C.'s Summary Report for the Town of Uxbridge's Annual Town Report; seconded by Bill. Motion passes 6-0.

Accounts/Trusts/Donations Update:

- No Committee review of November 2016 cemeteries accounts balances done. Sheryl did not receive balance accounts from the Town Accounting Dept. before this meeting.
- Discussion raised that the Committee has not yet seen/nor reviewed statements from the Town Accountant concerning the new Joseph Richardson Cemetery's Account – i.e. official account name/number and balance. At the Committee's **July 19, 2016 Meeting**, several motions were made/passed to establish a cemetery perpetual care account for the Joseph Richardson Cemetery #14, with the initial principle deposit of \$125.00 (from a private citizen's donation); a second motion made/passed to accept a \$7,500.00 donation from TransCanada to be used for restoration purposes of the damaged monuments at the cemetery. Prior to the Committee's September 13, 2016 Meeting, Sheryl submitted the TransCanada check for \$7,500 to the Town Accountant for inclusion into this new Joseph Richardson Cemetery Account.

Mowing/Clean-up of Cemeteries Update:

- Cleanups and mowing continue by Nick Romasco, as agreed by prior Committee Meeting motions, and as weather permits. Nick has submitted to the Committee a summary of his work completed as of October 27, 2016, as well as, "before and after photos" of his work completed as of this meeting. Cemeteries receiving

cleanup/brush removal photos are: Aldrich Cemetery #10 on West Street; DeWolfe Cemetery #18 on Erickson Street, Almshouse Cemetery #27 on Almshouse Rd., George Aldrich Cemetery #16 on Glendale Rd., and A. Mowry Tomb #26 on East Hartford Ave. (See Enclosed/appended copy of the **“2016 Mowing and Maintenance Completed as of Oct. 27, 2016”** summary page by Nicholas Romasco).

NEW BUSINESS:

Joseph Richardson Cemetery #14 Rehabilitation/Restoration Update:

- A Cemetery Site Cleanup Day: occurred on Friday October 7, 2016 with 16 volunteers/employees from Ocean State Power (TransCanada’s facility located in Harrisville RI). Committee Member, Jill Kenrick and her husband Frank, were there to meet and work with the volunteers, along with Ocean State Plant Manager, Joe Collard and Maintenance Manager, Mark Thomas. An incredible landscaping/cleanup of the surrounding site and the cemetery grounds was accomplished. An access pathway on TransCanada’s property was enlarged/widened from the cemetery to the High-Tension Line Right-of-way, (owned by EverSource Energy). Photos taken of the improvements made. TransCanada Newsletter story submitted.
- Water Buffalo for Graves’/Monuments’ Cleaning: Arrangements made by Committee member, Jill Kenrick, with Uxbridge Fire Chief, Bill Kessler to locate and deliver a temporary, portable water buffalo available from the Town of Mendon. This temporary water source is for the use of Cemetery Committee members to clean stones, utilizing the safe and non-toxic *“D/2 Biological Solution”* to remove acidic stains, molds and fungal material from the stones, prior to the rehabilitation and restoration of monuments, to be completed by ***Beyond the Gravestone***, company professionals. Fire Chief Kessler planned to personally deliver the water buffalo early in the week of October 10, 2016. However, Fire Chief Kessler was alerted by a phone call from EverSource Energy’s Senior Right of Way Specialist, Christopher Rodstrom, that delivery of the water buffalo to the site via EverSource Energy’s High-Tension Transmission Line’s property, (the only way to access the cemetery) would be considered, a “Non-Emergency” procedure, as defined under the Town of Uxbridge’s recently signed, Police & Fire Departments agreement/contract with EverSource Energy.
- Beyond the Gravestone Rehabilitation/Restoration of Damaged gravestones: After months of study, consultation and coordination by the U.H.C.C. and this professional company, located in Storrs, CT, a date to begin restoration of damaged/vandalized stones had been scheduled for Oct 19-28, 2016, weather permitting, as to whether the entire restoration would be carried over/completed in the late Spring of 2017.

Agreements, to conserve funding, were made that the U.H.C.C. would pay and deliver both the small amount of sand/pea stone, (2 cubic yards of each), to stabilize monuments, as well as renting a backhoe or Bobcat needed to remount the larger 7 family monuments were agreed upon, as to be delivered/payed for by the U.H.C.C. in co-ordination with the professional company's work at the site. Because of the stoppage of the water buffalo's delivery to the site, and for the same reason stated, the delivery of these materials/equipment were also cancelled. At the last possible time, stoppage notification to Beyond the Graves' professional restoration work was cancelled, with the understanding that our contract with them, might (hopefully) continue into the Spring/Summer of 2017.

- Status of the Committee's Application for an EverSource Community Relations Grant/Donation: On October 25, 2017, Secretary Jill Kenrick received an official email notification concerning the U.H.C.C.'s earlier grant application, (seeking funding for the Joseph Richardson Cemetery's restoration), was received from the EverSource Energy's Community Relations Committee; with the company, declining any support/money for the cemetery's restoration efforts.

With due-respect to EverSource Energy, and their representative, Christopher Rodstom, who had requested of Secretary, Jill Kenrick, that the U.H.C.C. commit to, sign, and submit on behalf of the Town, a legal contract application for approval to cross/access on a **permanent routine basis**, upon the company's right-of-way to access the cemetery. Even if, the expensive fees required/stated for this application, were waived by EverSource Energy, the Committee had to decline verbally. The U.H.C.C. could not commit to, nor has the authority to commit to, a legal document/request that also, did not apply to the Town of Uxbridge per se, much less, the U.H.C.C.; and which was as written as, and applied to "an agreement between abutting **property owners**", (i.e. TransCanada & EverSource Energy). Our expected restoration/rehabilitation of the vandalized damage to the Cemetery was requested/expected **only on** a temporary basis. The U.H.C.C. members routinely walk to reach this cemetery for oversight/care of this historic cemetery.

- Surveillance Cameras: - TransCanada has donated two trail cameras for surveillance at the cemetery. Brandon Kibbe, Land Agent-US Power/Hydro Northeast for TransCanada, has undertaken the cameras' set-up and operation. Also, a sign "camera surveillance" has been installed under the U.H.C.C.'s cemetery designated sign.

Brush Cutter Maintenance:

It was discovered that the Committee-owned brush cutter would not start. Machine was brought to RiteWay Power Equipment in Linwood for an estimate & fix in October by Jill. Pickup and payment of the brush cutter will be handled by Jill, with request for reimbursement from general cemetery fund.

Motion made by Beth to authorize the submittal of the maintenance bill/invoice for the repair services for the brush cutter when completed and picked up from Riteway Power Equipment of Linwood, MA. Seconded by Roy. Motion passes 6-0.

Schedule of Next Meetings/Events:

- **Tuesday April 11, 2017 at 10:00AM at Jill Kenrick house, 156 Albee Road.**

Motion made by Sue to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 PM. Motion seconded by Mary. Voted Unanimous, 6-0.

2016 Mowing and Maintenance Completed
as of October 27, 2016
Nicholas Romasco

The following cemeteries were mowed:

Almshouse	(3 times)
Norden	(2 times)
Shove	(2 times)
Gideon Mowry	(2 times)
Stephen Holbrook	(once)
Bassett	(once)
Southwick/Aldrich #36	(twice)
Daniels	(twice)
George Aldrich	(twice)
DeWolf	(twice)
Buffum	(once)

Cemeteries cleaned:

Royal Taft	Shrubs only
DeWolf	Cleaned up branches and cleared path into cemetery
George Aldrich	Cleaned up all branches and brush brought to River Road
Gideon Mowry	Cleaned up all branches and brush brought to River Road - two full loads in the pickup truck from these two cemeteries
Holbrook	Cleaned up branches, sprayed poison ivy, cleared area at entrance
Norden	Cleaned up brush in and around cemetery; squared off the top section to prevent encroachment of shrubs and poison ivy. Cut brush off several stones in lower level. Sprayed some poison ivy along back wall and along ledge
Shove	Cleaned up brush, squared off front right corner where post is down. Other shrubs are on abutters property
Bassett	Cleared shrubs inside cemetery and around wall
Almshouse	Cut down dead brush, cleared branches from cemetery and cleared path into cemetery
Gary Lane	Cut down brush in cemetery area

I plan to check each cemetery within the next month to make sure they are all in good shape before it snows. I will continue the clean up of cemeteries during the fall depending on the weather. Any I do not complete in the fall I will complete in the spring.

Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee

U.H.C.C. Meeting Minutes for November 8, 2016

Approved unanimously on Tuesday, April 11, 2017:

Suz DA

Roy Henry

Bill Martin

Bob Butler

Mary H. Brundage

Jill C. Kenrick

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Kenrick
Secretary
Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee