

Historic Cemetery Committee Minutes
May 16, 2006

Members present: Shelly Merriam, Roy Henry, Mary Brundage, Sheryl Romasco, Jill Kenrick and Beth Butler

Absent: Doris Ostroskey

Motion made to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2006 meeting by Beth Butler and seconded by Roy Henry Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

1. Roy Henry read a letter from the Sons of the Union Veterans Graves Registration officer telling about plans to get all Civil War Veterans graves registered and on line.

2. Beth Butler's and Shelly Merriam's terms are up this year. Both members plan to reapply for appointment to the committee.

3. Publicity for the Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee has been great. There was an article in the New Uxbridge Times this month and Shelly appeared in a segment of the Uxbridge Cable Television program "Uxbridge My Kind of Town.

4. Decorating Veterans' Graves

Jeff Kollett called Shelly and volunteered to help put out the flags on Saturday, May 20, 2006. Beth Butler also invited Jane Snyder to help.

5. Starrett Gravestone

Shelly will ask Peter Emrick for information about the headstone that was found and is now located in the cellar of the Cornet John Farnum House. Peter has found a relative and will give us an update.

6. Possible Money for Funding

The UHCC is going to ask Boston Edison if they have any grants available that could be used for cleaning up and restoring cemeteries. The Joseph Richardson Cemetery abuts Boston Edison property and might be eligible for funding.

7. Gideon Mowry Cemetery

The Gideon Mowry Cemetery has its own street address now. It is located at 84 Glendale Street.

8. Farnum Cemetery

Jill Kenrick and her husband will put up the sign at this cemetery.

The property owner is Mr. Sanchez. We will approach Mr. Sanchez about caring for the cemetery. If he does not want to take on this job, we will approach a neighbor, Christian Carver, who has expressed interest in caring for the cemetery.

9. Waucantuck Mill

Shelly received information from a book published in 1934 stating there was an Indian Chief buried behind the mill. Shelly reported this information to both Rob Josephs, the property developer, and to MA Historical. MA Historical has already been out to the site and is reviewing the information. This site has previously been cleared and

the trees removed. There is no way of knowing if the information is correct. MA Historical has to give the okay before any building demolition takes place.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Holbrook Cemetery

Mountain View Estates was scheduled to be on the Planning Board agenda for May 10, 2006 but the developer and land surveyor chose not to present their information because one member of the Planning Board was absent. Shelly met with Floyd to discuss the concerns the UHCC had expressed at our April meeting. The following issues have been addressed:

One septic system was moved from near the cemetery wall.

There will be a 15 foot access around 3 sides of the cemetery.

Access to the cemetery: There will be an easement and access to the cemetery from the street. The UHCC would like copies of the deeds when they are filed for our records.

There are still concerns about runoff from the septic systems and all the ledge in the area.

2. Cook Cemetery/Darling Cemetery

The UHCC will ask for a tour of both of these cemeteries on June 1, 2006 at 9:45 to look over the cemeteries and see what needs to be done. The UHCC wants information for the Board of Selectmen for the gravel pit permit at Lavallee's. (Cook Cemetery)

The UHCC will also bring up to the Board of Selectmen the easement to the Darling Cemetery through Chicoine's property. Jill Kenrick is continuing to research the property deeds.

3. Norden Cemetery

There will be a meeting tomorrow (May 17, 2006) about this cemetery. Shelly has invited Judy Collin (Her family is buried in this cemetery.), Dick Buma (Funeral Home representative), Harry Romasco, Chairman of the Uxbridge Board of Selectmen to discuss the concerns everyone has about the cemetery.

There was a recent burial in the cemetery and a vault was brought in. The vault company backed over graves and corner markers and left ruts in the cemetery. Judy Collin notified Shelly and then went after the Funeral Home (Holt Funeral Home in Woonsocket, RI) and Lamooreaux Vault Company to fix the mess. We will discuss this situation again tomorrow and get an update.

4. Name Change

Shelly presented the Committee with information about changing the name and responsibilities of the Cemetery Committee to a Cemetery Commission. We discussed this idea and will take time to think about the pros and cons of doing this.

5. Beth Butler requested that the UHCC check the cemetery surveys for accuracy before publishing them. There are some concerns about typos in the dates.

6. Date for next meeting was set for Tuesday July 18, 2006 at the Farnum House.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Motion made by Beth Butler; seconded by Jill Kenrick Unanimous.

Minutes accepted unanimously at July 18, 2006 meeting.