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Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee Minutes

Oct. 11, 2011

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

Absent: Dierdra Cahill.

Call to order at 7:04 PM.

Minutes of September 20, 2011 accepted and signed.

**Motion made to accept the minutes of September 20, 2011 made by Roy and seconded
by Shelly.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bassett Cemetery# 4/Rockmeadow Road Extension: Sheryl will make an appointment to meet with Town Manager after Thanksgiving Holidays. Jill to update/research local deeds/sales around both cemeteries, add photographs of blocked & posted road.
2. Cemetery Signs: Sheryl & her husband to oversee placement of remaining signs with assistance from a community volunteer in later part of November.
3. Cemetery Accounts Balances: Sheryl reports that for 3 months in a row, all account balances have been reported correctly by the town accounting department. The following accounts have had additional donations received of:

Buffum Cemetery Account: \$ 50.00
Norden Cemetery Account: \$ 525.00
Cemetery General Account: \$1,000.00
4. The Uxbridge H.S. Community Service Day originally scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2011 was cancelled by the High School. They will try for another day next Spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Summer Maintenance Bill: Chris Cota submitted his mowing costs for the 15 cemeteries for the summer season of 2011, totaling \$2,305.00. Funding to pay this cost will be drawn from: General Cemetery Account - \$1,580; Norden Cemetery Account - \$375; Gideon Mowry Account - \$70; Southwick Cemetery Account - \$120; and the Quaker City Account - \$160.

Motion made to pay the 2011 Summer Maintenance bill to Chris Cota for a total of \$2,305.00 made by Sheryl and seconded by Beth. Vote was unanimous.

2. Damage Assessment from Hurricane Irene: Chris Cota presented the following assessment/summarization to the committee:

- David Southwick Cemetery#20 – Some large pine branches down, estimated cost for removal \$50.00. [NOTE: second wind storm has since caused additional damage here, including downed monuments – pictures sent by Sheryl to committee members].
- Quaker City Cemetery#23 – Lots of branches down. One large tree felled, and someone has already cut and “pirated” the main trunk and larger branches. Three different areas within cemetery need branches removed; estimated cost \$400-500.
- Dewolf Cemetery#18 – Six to ten limbs down, estimated cost \$150.00.
- Morse Cemetery#17 - Some branches down, but Chris has moved them out of the way, off of the path.
- George Aldrich#16 – No real problem, new brush pile has doubled, Chris took care of this cost (added to summer mowing bill).
- Gideon Mowry#15 – No storm damage, but abutting home is in foreclosure, and new owners placing brush inside cemetery wall?
- Almshouse Cemetery#27 - No storm damage, but needs some brush/shrubs cut and removed some near the front entrance, and trimming in back areas; estimated cost \$200.
- Stephen Holbrook Cemetery#35 – No storm damage, but the new road slope is terrible. Developer has pushed ledge/rocks up against cemetery’s stonewall and cut tree trunks are blocking the entrance.
- Daniel’s Cemetery#3/Bassett Cemetery#4 – One large pine branch within Daniel’s but no monument damage. Bassett Cemetery interior is clear.
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Motion made by Beth to pay Chris Cota, no more than \$1,200 for all tree/branch removal (& brush trimming) done by storm damage. Payment for costs to be taken from the Old Center School Fund. Seconded by Sheryl. Voted unanimously.

3. Sheryl received an email from a Ms. Jennifer Lynch of Elm Street, who has lived there for about 2 years, but recently found a cemetery monument in her basement. Stone read: “Henry Britton, died Jan. 10, 1912; Age 76 years”. Sheryl determined that Henry Britton was buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery in Northbridge. She has returned correspondence with Ms. Lynch, directing her to the Pine Grove Cemetery administrator.
4. Suggestion raised by Beth that the committee consider once again, utilizing the state prison system/work release program to have cemetery clean-up crews during the fall season. Contact is to the Sheriff’s Office; previous crew (many years ago) worked 4-5 days – six man crew – opened up the Ironstone School for feeding lunch to crew. Need to be sure cemetery abutters/Chris would be committed to maintain/keep up with clean-up after completed. Long lead time (about a year) to obtain Prison confirmation.

5. Question raised if Aldrich/Buxton Cemetery#30 was checked after Hurricane. Will consider making an appointment with BJ's management for cemetery work/upgrade for next spring.
6. Shelly & family will be moving sometime within a year. Cemetery material/gates stored at her house will need a new location for assured storage. This will be need to be addressed.
7. Question raised: Can we/do we have a quote from Aaron Kerr for a new Quaker City Cemetery gate? Can he create/fabricate a gate from existing fencing stored at Shelly's house. Also a quote for repairing the gate rails at Shove Cemetery and one granite pillar needs to be replaced at Shove? Ask Aaron if a more economical metal could be substituted if necessary.

No November 2011 Meeting scheduled; unless needed.

NEXT MEETING: A Holiday Luncheon Get Together: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at the new Gia's Restaurant (formerly the Oyster Cabin) on Quaker Highway, Uxbridge. Meet at 11:00 AM .

Motion made to adjourn at 8:30 PM by Sheryl , seconded by Shelly. Unanimous.

U.H.C.C. Meeting Minutes for October 11, 2011

Approved unanimously on Tuesday, March 20, 2012:

Jill C Kenrick

Sherry Merriam

Mary H. Brundage

Beth Butte

Roy Henry

DJH Cahill

Sherry Romano

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Kenrick
Secretary
Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee