

HARTFORD CEMETERY COMMITTEE
Committee Meeting Minutes - 04/30/18

MEMBERS: Sue Buckholz, Larry Hudson, Jeff Knight, Ken Parker, Art Peale

ABSENT: Toby Dayman, John Newton

LIAISONS: Dennis Brown, Scott Hausler

COMMUNITY

MEMBERS: Henry Hazen, Christian Street Cemetery

CALL TO ORDER: 6:12 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES of 4/3/18 MEETING

Motion was made by Larry, seconded by Jeff, to accept the minutes. No requests for changes - Unanimous acceptance as presented.

BEGIN DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL CEMETERY NEEDS

Discussion of mowing needs for the cemeteries. Jeff reported that Enfield has a contract for mowing and maintenance of their cemeteries for \$40,000.00 for this year. The committee is looking for a person or persons who are interested in providing work to the Hartford cemeteries. Beyond the obvious need for mowing, some cemeteries have need for brush removal, tree trimming, tree removal, headstone repair.

Discussion of formulation of a "wish" list of what members see as the needs for each cemetery, so that those needs can be balanced against resources.

Henry reported on Christian Street cemetery as being in generally good shape, with some stones that need attention.

Jeff reported that the Hartford cemetery might be in the worst condition, road especially in need of repair, many stones tipped over. The issues at Hartford are exacerbated by the clay soil there.

West Hartford is believed to be in as good shape as Christian Street and Quechee.

TOWN CLERK - ROLE OF RECORD KEEPING FOR CEMETERIES

Ken reported on two reports compiled by the Town Clerk in Hartford, which gathered information on who is buried in which cemetery in the town. It includes lot and section location but, without a map, it is not as helpful as it might be. Larry reported that Quechee had a map made by Roy Hathorn. Big problem in Quechee is that Larry is hearing from people who come to him for cremains burial whose names do not match his records. Quechee has plenty of space for cremations, as can put four cremains on top of a burial in one plot.

The committee discussed whether the committee wants to see the storage of burial records and maps in a central location at the Town Clerk's office or other location designated by the Selectboard, and how and when updates would be made to those records to keep them current. Larry said that the Town gets all of the Quechee deeds for the burial rights already, and he keeps a book recording all of that information.

Ken said that he is looking to keep all of the records in a permanent place to ensure that they're safe, not to upset any individual cemetery's process of keeping their own records. Jeff suggested that the language about having records kept in the Town Clerk's office could be elective for the cemeteries, so that it read that the records "may" be kept, rather than "shall be" kept, in that office.

DISCUSSION RELATIVE TO FILING INTERIM REPORTS TO SELECTBOARD

Ken suggested that the committee include in an interim report its thoughts on record storage/safekeeping. There was a discussion about creating a database of all of the cemetery information that is available at this point, and how the committee might fund the work that needs to be done. It was suggested that the Historic Preservation people might have some interest and/or information about how this work could be done.

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

Jeff reported on differentiating between developed lots and cemeteries with land that could be developed into lots. Ken asked if there was any idea of how many lots are available in each cemetery. As the discussion ensued, it became clear that there is not a clear notion of inventory and the members agreed to work on that issue.

FUTURE NEEDS: GOVERNANCE, DIRECTION

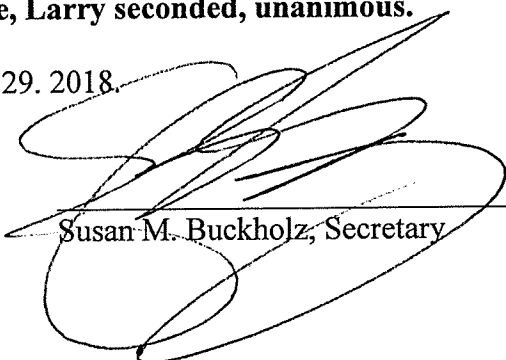
Ken suggested that the committee create some subcommittees to spread the work around to 2 or 3 person subcommittees. Governance is certainly one, to see where the associations are similar and where they are different in how they conduct their affairs. Ken would like to talk individually to members about what committee work they would like to do.

TOPICS FOR MAY 14, 2018 MEETING

Ken suggested that the committee convene at 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2018, meet at the Town Offices then carpool to Hartford and Christian Street.

ADJOURN 7:29 p.m. (moved by Sue, Larry seconded, unanimous.)

Respectfully submitted this May 29, 2018.


Susan M. Buckholz, Secretary