Conservation Commission’s  
Cemetery Committee  
Minutes

Date: August 17, 2015  
Call to order: 3:05 p.m. by Dickinson

Attendance (X if present):

Committee Members

- Nancy Dickinson
- Eric Brower
- Lisette Henrey
- Gary Silberberg
- Anne Young
- Chris Shields
- Robert McKnight
- Denise Savageau

Others present:

- Davidde E. Strackbein
- Jeffrey Bingham Mead
- Debra Piper
- Laureen Taylor
- Carolyn Antonik

Minutes/Admin

First meeting – no minutes
1. Will establish monthly meeting date with meetings to be held starting at 3 p.m.
2. Anne Young volunteered to serve as recording Secretary when staff cannot be in attendance.

Reports/Actions

Savageau distributed the following information for the Committee:
1. HPI hard copies – digital copies provided prior to meeting
2. Copies of Anne Young’s comments on the HPI Report
3. List of Abandoned Cemeteries from P&R files
4. Proposed Historic Registry from P&R files
5. GIS list of Cemeteries

Completed Survey map also reviewed by Committee. Dickinson and Savageau indicated that the Committee needed to focus on the maintenance recommendations. The full Conservation Commission is looking at ownership with the First Selectmen’s office.
Discussion of HPI report ensued. Motion made by Eric Brower and seconded by Young to adopt the report with the following additions/corrections per the memo from Anne Young:

1. Page 2 – 3rd paragraph – add “daughter of Elizabeth Fones Withrop Feake”
2. Page 3 top of page – remove the word “twice”
3. Page 3 leave text but un-bold text in paragraph and remove Note on bold text

And also to correct on Page 4 the spelling of Nils Kerschus. Motion carried unanimously.

Savageau will work to have corrections made and release final document.

Savageau indicated that additional information had come in following the report, that was not necessarily about corrections but providing additional historical information. She will copy the files for Young, Shields, and Dickinson onto a USB so that they can review.

Discussion ensued about recommendations for the Byram Cemetery and how these would fit into overall recommendations for cemeteries. Jeffrey Bingham Mead addressed the Committee. He provide an overview of how the Mead family cemeteries are being managed and indicated the cemetery organizations are covered under 501-c-13 of the tax code. This is something the Committee may explore in terms of public/private partnerships. He also indicated that during his work on cemeteries, he had worked with Mr. Finch who had indicated to him that the Byram Cemetery was a public cemetery. It was Mr Mead’s opinion that the Town owned the cemetery.

Savageau explained to the Committee what has been provide to date does not include any written record as to ownership. Young indicated should would look for references to a public cemetery on Byram Dock Road.

Discussion on new A-2 survey and next steps for Byram. Consensus for Committee to decide on short term and long term needs such as immediate maintenance, veteran headstones, fencing, restoration work on lower cemetery etc. Decision to conduct a site walk to inform the discussion and also to review the new survey. Savageau indicated that she would set up a meeting to include Bruce Spaman, Supt of Parks and Trees.

Laureen Taylor addressed the Committee and indicated that she was a Lyon descendant and interested in the Cemetery and wanted to be kept informed. Carolyn Antonik indicated that she was a neighbor and also interested. Debra Piper also indicated she was a relative of the Lyons and interested.

Discussion of List of Cemeteries and GIS lists provided. Shields and Savageau will review further.

**Assignments**

1. Savageau to send out doodle poll to establish best meeting dates
2. Savageau to work with HPI on corrections to report
3. Young to research looking for “public cemetery”
4. Savageau to set up site walk at Byram Cemetery and to include Spaman
5. Young, Shields, Dickinson to review other information provided by the public once received on USB by Savageau
6. Shields to review List of Cemeteries at GHS offices and Savageau to follow-up on GIS mapping

**Next Meeting Date:** tbd  
**Adjourned at:** 4:30 p.m.