

HARTFORD CEMETERY STUDY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: August 20, 2018
PRESENT: Ken Parker, Sue Buckholz, Toby Dayman, John Newton, Larry Hudson
ABSENT: Jeff Knight, Art Peale
LIAISONS: Scott Hausler (Hartford Parks and Recreation Department (PRD))
Dennis Brown (Selectboard)
COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Henry Hazen (Christian Street Cemetery)
GUESTS: Dan Reed (Hartford Veterans Council), Denis Buckus (Hartford Veterans Council), Pat Stark (Hartford Historical Society and Hartford Preservation Committee), Nicole Vecchi (board member Vermont Old Cemeteries Association (VOCA))
RECORDED BY: Toby Dayman

Call to order at 6:04 PM.

1. Handouts included:
 - Draft meeting Minutes of August 6, 2018 meeting
 - Plans from Aerial Imagery (in progress, 11x17"), August 20, 2018
 - Christian Street Cemetery (draft)
 - Hartford Cemetery (draft)
2. The draft Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2018 was approved with no changes.
3. Dan and Denis represented the Hartford Veterans Council, the organization that puts flags on all the veterans' graves.
 - They distribute approximately 800 flags a year.
 - They know the locations of all veterans' graves. However, some graves have become difficult or unreadable over time and thus, difficulty and increased time arises to locate them in the field. This effect occurs more in the older cemeteries, particularly Hartford, Center of Town; Delano/Savage, and the lower area of Quechee. Unfortunately, they may miss a few veterans with unreadable or missing headstones.
 - Their interest centered on their concern that they have a way to find the graves readily that need flags. The process that has worked in the past entailed installing a ½" PVC sleeve directly at a headstone corner. The flag post sets in the sleeve. However, they have seen some of the sleeves disappear, most likely due to maintenance operations or enterprising grave attendees who remove the sleeves and use the hole for flowers. They encourage that the sleeves remain.
 - Denis indicated many stones in the Delano/Savage Cemetery have deteriorated severely. He had once received a sketch made by Ron Heroux of that cemetery's burials and veterans. Ken noted the importance finding and retaining that sketch as a record of the cemetery's burials.
4. Nicole and Dan indicated that an area of St. Anthony's Cemetery contains a mass burial of graves that included both Abenaki and others of multiple denominations.
 - Nicole noted a cemetery originally existed near the riverbank. The route and installation of the first railroad necessitated the railroad company to remove that cemetery's interments to the section of St. Anthony's Cemetery.
 - The mass grave currently locates in a rectangular area with no markers in the southeast corner of St. Anthony's. No records exist as to number and names of the interred.
5. Nicole indicated that VOCA gives grants of varying amounts up to \$800±, mostly for the purchase of supplies to clean, maintain, and rebuild headstones, to community organizations working collaboratively with others/volunteers to improve cemeteries.

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6. Scott discussed some of the process the Town (PRD) uses to care for their cemeteries.
 - PRD receives \$3,000 from the Town for cemeteries and contracts out the remainder.
 - PRD employs Art every year to complete some headstone repairs.
 - They have agreement to pay \$100/day to DOC to assist in caring for Parks and Recreation properties. PRD may have them work on cemeteries or other properties depending on the need at that moment. They mow cemeteries once every two weeks.
 - The availability of probationers for the DOC work has been problematic. Thirty to forty percent of the time, the DOC supervisors need to step in and work because of the lack of probationers. Thus, this process becomes too unreliable to generate assured future maintenance.
7. The Committee made comments on the draft report text issued on August 6, 2018.
 - General agreement existed on the overall structure and sections. The report will undergo additions and revisions to fill things out completely.
 - The costs offered by John on the West Hartford Cemetery reflect his actual expenditures. The mowing remained lower than others due to a lower hourly rate. The cost estimate will revise to generally reflect John's costs with a note added that these costs are lower due to a favorable hourly rate, suggesting that the costs may rise when using another vendor.
8. Ken wanted each member to list and prioritize the 5 most important things to address for cemeteries of Hartford. Members should forward their list to Ken by Friday August 24.
9. Toby presented Plans from Aerial Imagery of two cemeteries – Christian Street Cemetery and Hartford Cemetery.
10. Next regularly scheduled meeting would fall on the holiday of Labor Day. Therefore, that meeting rescheduled for Wednesday September 5 at 6:00 PM.
11. Motion to adjourn made and passed at 7:50 PM.

Accepted By: _____



Date: _____

9/4/2018