



*RECEIVED January 18, 2024 @2:53PM
Kimberly Keil, Assistant Redding Town Clerk
2 pages*

Redding Historic Cemetery Committee

A Committee of the Office of the Board of Selectmen

Minutes

January 11, 2024

Meeting called to order at 2:01 PM at the Town Hall Meeting Room. Committee Members Present: Joseph Bonomo, Janice Dimon, Sean McNamara, Louise Wagner. Interested Parties: Julia Pemberton, Robert Paradise, Janet Storace, William Brown.

Minutes of October 12 ,2023 Meeting

Motion: *A motion to accept the October 12 ,2023 Minutes as published.*

Passed Unanimously

RHCC Budget for FY 25 (2024-2025). Status: the spreadsheets for the RHCC Budget Recurring (O & M), and the Special Fund (Non-recurring) Capital Budget for FY 2025 were submitted in November 2024 and are under consideration as part the Town's budget approval process.

Status of Current Budget: No expenditures are made against the special capital fund. The O&M budget for 2023-2024 for \$22,500 shows actual expenditure of \$3,250 for maintenance, and there is an encumbrance reservation of \$9,250 for tree removal, showing a balance of \$10,000. Julia notes a balance in this account will revert back to the town on June 30, 202 if not spent.

RHCC Grant Status. A pending receipt of \$5,000 from the CT State Abandoned Cemetery Grant will offset the \$9,250 Bartlett tree work projected in the O&M Budget after the submission of the paid invoice for the work. A \$5,000 State Historic Preservation Office grant will pay for the entirety of the ground penetrating radar survey work at Lonetown Cemetery. Julia thanked Louise for writing the grants.

Lonetown Cemetery Work: Tree/limb and debris work. Sean noted that Matt Corsack of Bartlett Tree Removal went above and beyond the contracted work. In addition, coordination with Charlie Hyatt and Robert Paradise to protect the burial grounds while attending to work is recognized. Julia plans to pen a letter to the Sentinel editor, and an article focusing on this work is forthcoming. In addition, Julia will post comments and photos on the town's social media. The RHCC extends a very special thanks to Charlie

and Julia for a decision to save the very large maple tree, and for making it safe through pruning and cabling work. Joe Bonomo, Chair of RHCC will send a special note of thanks to all involved in this project.

Motion: *RHCC wishes to express its thanks and recognition to Bartlett Tree Service, Charlie Hyatt and Robert Paradise for their work and mindful care of the burial grounds in the removal of tree debris, and tree mitigation work at Lonetown Cemetery.*

Passed Unanimously.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey Work. Bids went out to three (3) contractors for this work; a contract is pending with Julia. A GPR survey can be done early this spring while the ground is slightly frozen.

Gravestone/headstone and monument repair and maintenance: Going forward Louise will work with the Connecticut Veterans Administration to replace and repair the Sgt. Thomas gravestone (a Civil War veteran) and the gravestones for two Americans serving in the Revolution (not named in this meeting). She will contact Michael Carroll for a proposal to repair and clean headstones and monuments. (Mr. Carroll, a preservationist was instrumental in the resetting of the returned headstone at Sanford Cemetery.)

Fence Replacement and Repair. Louise reported Jamie in the town purchasing office is unable to find a vendor stocking Locust posts for the spit-rail fence. A discussion ensued. Based on Bob Paradise's recommendation, it was decided that RHCC would obtain a proposal for the installation of ten granite posts: 8 to create a barrier to prevent wheeled vehicles from driving into cemetery grounds, and two granite posts with connecting large chain for the front entrance. The size and distance between the posts will allow for maintenance equipment to access the cemetery.

Closing Remarks. Recognition is made of the 2023 Wreaths Across America December program at Umpawaug Cemetery. This is the third year the Drum Hill Chapter NSDAR has partnered with a town organization, and the second year with RHCC to honor veterans. Participation in this annual event has doubled.

Next Meeting of the RHCC: Next regular meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2024 at 2:00 PM in the Town Meeting Room.

Motion: *To Adjourn at 2:35 pm on January 11, 2024.*

Passed Unanimously

Submitted by:

Janice Dimon, Secretary

Redding Historic Cemetery Committee