

# Redding Historic Cemetery Committee

A Committee of the Office of the Board of Selectmen

## Minutes

April 11, 2024

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM at the Town Hall Meeting Room. Committee Members Present: Joseph Bonomo, Janice Dimon, Sean McNamara, Louise Wagner. Interested Parties: Julia Pemberton, Robert Paradise, Bonnie Ensor, Terrie Roesse.

Joseph read a letter of thanks that he had sent to Charles Hyatt, Matthew Corsack and Robert Paradise for their work at Lonetown Cemetery. A copy of that letter was sent to Ms. Pemberton.

### Minutes of January 11, 2024 Meeting

**Motion:** A motion to accept the January 11, 2024 Minutes with the addition of the Hull and Redding Ridge cemeteries in the Closing remarks. **Passed Unanimously**

**RHCC Budget Request for Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2025.** Joseph reported that Jim Sanders cut back the RHCC budget request for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2025 to reflect the same figures passed for the fiscal year 2024. There is no expected change for the coming year. The Town will vote on the budget for the coming fiscal year on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center.

**RHCC Account Balances:** Joseph reported that after expenditures of \$16,225, for cemetery work the total balance of the Special fund and the O&M Fund is \$6,325.00 at this time. The Town is pending receipt of an awarded \$5,000 grant and upon receipt, unless no further expenses, the balance would be \$11,325.00 at the end of this fiscal year. The \$5,000 expected grant would wash thru for GPR expenses and the remaining \$6,325 would be applied to cemetery care through to 6/30/24.

**RHCC Grant Status.** Louise reported it appears the Town is still pending receipt of the \$5,000 from the Neglected Cemetery Grant.

**Lonetown Cemetery Work:** The Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Survey Work was completed by Dr. David Leslie, after two days of work, on 3/26/24 and 3/27/24. Teachers and elementary children from the special advance mathematics class were invited to view the GPR work at the cemetery on 3/26/24. A final report is expected after several weeks of reading results. The Town will be invited to hear the final report

and results of this GPR on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 at the Community Center. This report will assist RHCC and the Town to better mark the disturbance sites and to determine needed work to restore these sites.

Fence Replacement and Repair. Louise summarized three various options for the replacement of a fence at Lonetown Cemetery, including materials and labor and coordination consideration between contractors and the Town for the installation of eight barrier granite posts and two granite posts with connecting large chain for the front entrance. The current account balances will not support the estimated proposal cost for the completion of the fence.

Bob Paradise requests the front entrance of the fence be moved closer to the road, as it appears to have been in the past. A discussion followed regarding the required setback for this road, parking and drainage needs.

Joseph will send a letter to the Town requesting the clarification of the setback required for future installation of the fence, requirements for a drainage pipe and placement. Further clarification is also required as to the highway department's commitment/ability to dig the post holes and other required labor for the fence pursuant to the proposals.

Joseph will reach out to the Town Historians to ascertain if any photos exist of the original fence at this cemetery; Janice will check Historical Society archives.

The next step in this process is that the proposals are to be sent to the Town for review and recommendation by the RHCC.

**Closing Remarks.** Louise and Sean are recognized for their work on the Lonetown Cemetery and fence research. Joseph prioritized the Sanford-Read Cemetery as the next cemetery project for RHCC.

**Next Meeting of the RHCC:** Next regular meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2024 at 2:00 PM in the Town Meeting Room. Sean McNamara will chair that meeting in Joseph's absence.

**Motion:** *To Adjourn at 2:49 pm on April 11, 2024.*  
***Passed Unanimously***

**Submitted by:**  
Janice Dimon, Secretary, Redding Historic Cemetery Committee