

2006

6:40 pm open forum

Coventry has 198 cemeteries on private property. Looking for help to access for maintenance of the cemeteries. Could there be enabling legislation or a general law that would let us have access.

General laws 23-18.10 & 11 were quoted

Maintenance and preservation of cemeteries were a big concern.

Suggestion for a liaison to each town

Volunteers in schools to help clean and learn about cemeteries.

Suggested a resource for sharing problems with cleaning and maintaining cemeteries.

One town gives tax abatement for property owners maintaining cemeteries or used too.

Significantly important cemeteries should be on historical register

Vandalism stories should be put on TV show what happens to them when caught etc.

RI law says cemetery cannot be moved for reason of financial

expediency and should have been enforced as in the Johnston land fill or commercial buildings in Johnston.

Markers for Civil War Veterans are available.

Open forum adjourned 7:55 pm

Commission Meeting called to order 8:15 pm

Members present: Evelyn Wheeler, Edna Kent, Roger Beaudry, Sally Small, Rosemarie Mello, Ron Onorato, Peggie Malcolm, Bruce MacGunnigle, Carolyn Schwab, Paul Robinson, Robert Butler.

Comprehensive Plan Report:

Bruce MacGunnigle had sent out memo to East Greenwich, Town Manager, Clerk, Dir of Planning, Dir. Of Public Works and Tax Assessor, advising them he did not find any mention of cemeteries in its comprehensive plan and that it should be included.

Bruce gave the Commission members a listing of all 76 cemeteries in East Greenwich which included the plat and lot number where each cemetery was located and if each one was listed on the plat maps with a symbol as required or not. Of these 51 were marked and 25 were not. Bruce also brought out a book given to him by the late Edwin Connolly retired from the VA Cemeteries. This book was thought to have been missing for many years, has all the cemeteries that Mr. Connolly documented."

The other members of the commission have been working diligently on this Comprehensive Plan and we will hold a work session meeting at the Sprague Mansion in Cranston on January 31st at 6:30 pm. If anyone cannot be there please send your findings so far to the Chairman. Also any suggestions for the “New Book” also as that should be going out to all towns as soon as possible.

Providence Public Library also has “The Book” by Graves Registration for the entire state. This was done in the late 50's and is not quite up to date but it is a good resource.

Sally Small reported in her findings that Plat Maps and Assessors Maps are not the same. At least not in Barrington. Assessors maps with GIS gives graphic details.

Roger Beaudry suggested that the cemetery symbol be established by the Commission (who has the jurisdiction to do same by General Law 23-18-10.1) as a rectangle with “cem” inside. If size matters than an asterisk with meaning below. And this is to happen from this point forward any new plat maps are made. Unanimous vote 10-0

Robert Buonaccorsi has done up a very nice letter head for the Commission.

Meeting adjourned 9:05pm