

Minutes of June 27, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

Members present: Evelyn Wheeler, Edna Kent, Roger Beaudry, Judy Fardig, Peggie Malcom, Bruce MacGunnigle, Carolyn Schwab, Rosemarie Mello, Robert Butler

Old Business

Minutes of work session on May 30, 2007

- Approved 9 -0 to waive reading of the minutes, Accepted 9-0

Report on findings for contacts at town halls regarding cemeteries

Distributed form for noting any additional contacts, returned to Evelyn

New Business

Discussion regarding next year's meeting schedule

Approved 9-0 to continue moving location around state

Approved 8-1 to continue holding the meetings at 6:30 pm on last Wednesday of the month

Books are ready for commission members to be delivered to their counties.

- A copy will go to each Town/City Clerk, Assessor, Planner, Historical Society (if applicable), and Library

- Separate copy to each Town/City Department of Public Works and Police Department

- Books will be delivered to the above personally, and each

commission member will make note of the delivery.

Discussion regarding opening a checking acct for Tax Exempt app

- Voted 9-0 to go through the Secretary of State and check into Certified Local Government status

Discussion on a Fall Cleanup state-wide

- Approved 9-0 to schedule one for the first week of November

Report on State House visit by Pegee and Evelyn

- 9 Ordinances were presented to Karen Ellsworth, Counsel for the Finance Commission

- Informed that ordinances involving giving descendants right of way to pass and re-pass on private property were not going to be approved

- Two were on the calendar, but were passed over and will be reintroduced next session. Others will be reintroduced also.

Other New Business

- Bruce MacGunnigle distributed References to Cemetery, Cemeteries, Burial, and Burials in East Greenwich, RI, Charter, Comprehensive Plan and Ordinances

Open Forum

Representation from Chepachet, Pawtucket, Johnston, Smithfield, North Smithfield, East Greenwich, Cumberland

Don Gagnon, Chair of the North Smithfield Conservation Commission thanked the Commission and Edna for their assistance with helping to get the “mystery mounds” registered and stopping a developer from building on the site

West Greenwich Town Planner working on recording all historical cemeteries on Plat maps, and considering making the cemeteries a separate lot, having separate ownership for them, or including deeded access to them

Coventry is developing a Historical Cemetery Commission similar to the existing Warwick Historical Cemetery Commission

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are working on a clean-up and fixing 90 stones at Intervale Cemetery North Providence.

Offer to assist by publishing article/photos regarding vandalism and needed clean-ups

Representative from Rhode Island Historical Society Library brought a patron request for information on Potters Fields in RI – many attendees provided information

Discussion regarding the work that the Friends of Smithfield Cemeteries is doing with cleaning up cemeteries, documentation of before and after photos, and logging GPS coordinates

Question from a Chepachet resident regarding a cemetery that abuts her backyard and impact on a property owner behind hers request to build an access road to his property through hers because his property is land locked and the access road would go right next to the cemetery.

Blackstone Valley Tourism, as part of “Project Clean America” will provide loaner equipment and supplies to assist in cemetery cleanups

Next Meeting: September 26, 2007 6:30 pm at the Newport Public

Library

Meeting adjourned 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Emily Corbett