

Southampton Town's Historic Burial Ground Committee
Minutes for June 11, 2019

In Attendance:

Sundy Schermeyer, Julie Greene, Roger Tollefsen, Tom Rogers, Chris Robinson, Marlene Haresign, Brenda Sinclair Berntson & Sarah Mendenhall Luhmer.

Minutes:

After discussion, Tom Rogers moved to accept the minutes of April 9, 2019. All were in favor. The Minutes are available on our website Stewardship->The Southampton Town Historic Burying Ground Committee; you will find them at the bottom of this page. If you want to search for something we discussed in a previous meeting (such as "Girl Scouts") from the Home Page-> Search Records->Search Site Text->"Girl Scouts" ... the search will bring up a list of documents that contain that phrase. If you click on one of the documents you will be connected to the page where this term can be found. Scroll down to see it highlighted in orange. Click on the date of the Minutes to see all that was discussed.

Carry Over Items:

GROUND PENETRATING RADAR –The purchase of a GPR system has been a topic of discussion for several months. We could use it to:

- *Fully map the Old Southampton Burying Ground. Showing the actual burial sites will add reverence to this historically significant site.
- *Find buried headstones at all town owned burying ground sites
- *Use it at newly discovered sites in the town
- *Help resolve human remains issues.
- *Save \$4,000.00 each time we elected to use a professional.
- * The GPR system could be a source of revenue.

The GPR system is a substantial cost. Julie noted that because we are not planning on hiring outside restorers for Cemetery workshops, we could use this money towards the purchase. If we purchased the unit, five days of training in Nashua, NH would be required (2 days for the device itself and 3 days for the software).

Marlene asked where our future funding might come from. Sundy said that the sources are currently unknown but might include Community Preservation Funds. For us to take advantage of this funding, we should develop a long-term plan and budget and submit this to support our case that additional funds will be needed and required. Roger will prepare.

Sundy suggested that we might have another meeting with the town supervisor about the GPR. However, Roger made a proposal to decide to purchase the GPR system. Tom seconded the proposal and all those present voted yes.

After the vote Sundy brought up some logistical issues we should consider:

- *Where will the GPR device be stored – In the Town Historian's Office.

*Which town departments will have access to the GPR device – to be determined

WESTHAMPTON CEMETERY SURVEY WITH GIRL SCOUTS

Roger, Julie and Tara Coady (SHT IT Department) gridded out the oldest part of the Westhampton Cemetery site and so far have identified about 40% of the 270 CemPlotIdNums that have been marked with GIS technology. The 1902 Akerly survey will be correlated to this.

When the Girl Scouts do their survey, they will identify the stones and take pictures prior to cleaning them with “D2”. The photos and survey information will be uploaded from on-line tablets to our website. At a later date, the Scouts will re-photograph the stones to show the effects of the cleaning. Sundy explained that as we are photographing and documenting these headstones, we are helping to preserve historic documents. She stressed the eventual need to survey all the gravestones within the cemeteries of the Town of Southampton. Westhampton Cemetery will be a model and the Girl Scout program will offer us opportunities to promote and to advertise our efforts.

Marlene brought up an important issue of the autonomy of private burial ground groups that may fear giving up control if they end up using our Cemetery Plot ID # system. Sundy added that once the other cemetery groups see how useful our model is, they may be encouraged to participate.

Restoration:

Restoration and cleaning at Pleasure Woods Cemetery is complete! What a wonderful job Dennis has done! Now it is on to the Old Noyac (Edwards) Burial Ground. Julie offered to give a talk at Flanders Community Center about nearby Pleasure Woods Cemetery.

Old Burying Ground:

Roger and Julie will be giving another Old Burying Ground Presentation at 7:00 PM in Hampton Bays on June 13th. Sea-TV will film this and the presentation will be posted on our website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sarah provided her Steward's Report for the East Quogue Cemetery. She detailed the issues with broken, leaning, or sinking headstones. There is a large dead tree that needs to be removed. Sarah also provided the committee with photos. Her Stewardship Report will be used in planning for our next restorative efforts. The Parks Department will be contacted to see if they can help with tree work.

Our next meeting will be on August 13, 2019 @ 10:00 AM.
The meeting was adjourned.