

Southampton Town's Historic Burial Ground Committee
Minutes for August 13, 2019

In Attendance:

Sundy Schermeyer, Julie Greene, Roger Tollefsen, Tom Rogers, Chris Robinson,
Marlene Haresign, Chase Wanat & Sarah Mendenhall Luhmer.

Minutes:

Tom moved to accept the minutes of June 11, 2019. All were in favor. The Minutes are available on our website Stewardship->The Southampton Town Historic Burying Ground Committee; you will find a link to them at the bottom of this page.

Coming Events:

At the Flanders Historical Society meeting, Julie & Roger will give a talk about the **Pleasure Woods Cemetery**. The presentation will begin at **6pm on Thursday September 26th** at the Flanders Community Center, 655 Flanders Rd, Riverhead.

Cemetery Reports:

Julie spoke to John Irwin at Parks about the tree work at the **East Quogue Methodist Cemetery**. Because of the tree's large size, the Parks Department will job out this removal project.

SEA-TV filmed Julie and Roger's presentation about the **Old Burying Ground** and Edwin Post. Over thirty people participated but the film has not yet been released. Sarah Pleat of SEA-TV expressed an interest in joining this committee. Roger will follow up and contact Sarah.

Julie met with Deb Sterling and her husband about the Havens Family members who are interred at **Pleasure Woods Cemetery**. Julie is doing research into how the Town of Southampton came to acquire the Pleasure Woods site. While restoring the gravestones at this site, Dennis Delaney found five headstones that had been buried including one that straddles the perimeter. It is possible that the cemetery is larger than the fenced off area. The restoration of Pleasure woods is nearing completion. Dennis has been providing us with his detailed notes and pictures and this information will be available on our website. The completed headstones have recently been D2ed. After the Historic Division photographs the restored headstones Roger will post them to the website.

Restoration efforts have been continuing at the **Old Noyac Burying Ground**.

Julie met with Bette Hickok at the **Fanning Family Burying Ground**. This site is located on private property off Route 24 in Flanders and Bette has been tending to it for years. The Fanning Family Burying Ground is another example of a burial site on private property that has little protection and its gravestones are in need of restoration and cleaning. These concerns have been partially addressed by our committee in its draft for a Protocol for the Discovery of Human Remains, relics or gravesites. After our Committee meeting, Roger & Sundy will meet with the Town Supervisor to discuss progress on this issue.

Julie received an inquiry from Lauren Steinberg about installing a headstone in the **Old Burying Ground** in memory of her relative Thomas Sayre. Although it is likely that the first two or three generations of Southampton founders were buried in the Old Burying Ground, other than the remaining 48 headstones, documentation of those actually interred there is missing. As our Committee uncovers more information about the Old Burying Ground (especially when we develop a 3-D GPR image of it) we can expect similar requests to arise. However, until we have more documentation, we cannot accept requests for new memorials.

John Pelletreau is buried in the **North End Burial Ground**. Mr. Zaykowsk is a relative of Pelletreau and recently installed a bronze service marker near that grave but also contacted Julie about the amount of trash at the North End site. Our Committee has previously made Stop-N-Shop Supermarket aware of their trash problem and how it impacts the Burial Ground; it continues to be a problem. Roger suggested that we ask the village to enforce the village code. Sundry will speak to Russell Kratoville (Southampton Village Administrator) about this issue.

The Southampton Historic Division recently received an inventory of the grave plots and their locations in the Good Ground Cemetery in Hampton Bays. Although Good Ground Cemetery is private and not owned by the Town, the Cemetery Committee encourages all private burial grounds to document and protect their vital records.

The Girl Scout **Westhampton Cemetery** project is progressing. Westhampton Cemetery's oldest section has about 270 gravestones and the survey is about 60% complete. The Girl Scouts have been using an on-line form that Tara Cody (Southampton Town's Information Technologies) had developed. The Scouts enter locations and images into IPADS which are then uploaded. Marlene asked if we have alerted the media about our project. Publicity about this successful project could be very useful and may convince other cemeteries to use our program. Julie will contact local newspapers to let them know about our project with the Girl Scouts..

The Town has put out bids for our 3-D Ground Penetrating Radar system. Julie and Roger will attend the first training opportunities in Nashua, NH. Once this training is complete, we will determine if others would benefit by taking these courses. Those training days are:

3D Technology 10/15-10/17

Use of GPR 11/19-11/20

New Business:

The Southampton Historical Society requested to use the North End Burial Ground for a fund raising event. Part of the use would include "paranormal investigations". The Historic Burial Ground committee was not comfortable with this request and recommended that a permit not be provide for this purpose.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 @ 10am.

Meeting was adjourned.