

REHOBOTH CEMETERY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2022

Meeting convened at 6 PM at Francis Farm Arcade with Bev Baker, Jake Kramer, Jason Landry, and Connie Wenzel-Jordan present. Also present were guests Bruce Nichols and Steven Nichols.

Minutes: Motion by Bev Baker to accept February Minutes with a second from Jason Landry and approved unanimously.

Adjust Meeting Agenda: A motion was made by ~~Bev Baker~~ ^{Jake Kramer} to rearrange agenda to first address special business relating to guests. A second was made by ~~Jake Kramer~~ ^{Jason} and approved unanimously.

Special Business Right of Way: Guests Bruce Nichols and Steven Nichols were welcomed to the meeting. They provided an overview of their situation related to the Nichols/Cole/Moulton Cemetery (RHC #20) on Moulton Street. The Nichols family claims ownership of the cemetery since 1969 and provided a letter from the Rehoboth Town Clerk from November 10, 1969 certifying the Town released any and all claims per unanimous vote at Special Town Meeting of November 10, 1969. The Nichols family had ground penetrating radar (GPR) performed at the cemetery to allow greater knowledge of individual graves and their positions within the cemetery boundaries. It was reported that unknown (unmarked) graves were discovered. The Nichols family has had contemporary burials in the cemetery and plans to continue full interments there. Cem Com was presented with several questions including the family's interest in purchasing adjacent property to expand the cemetery and possibly sell grave sites. Jason Landry emphasized the complex issues related to this plan including legalities involving the town and multiple land conservation issues. It was noted the Nichols family does not have a recorded deed to the property and the six-year statute of limitation to file for a deed expired in 1975. Bruce Nichols said he will contact the Town Office (Town Clerk and Board of Selectmen) to set up a meeting to continue this conversation with town officials. There was a motion from Jake Kramer with a second from Jason Landry to suspend special business, approved unanimously.

Approve Reimbursement: There was a motion by Jake Kramer to accept expenses and authorize reimbursement to Bev Baker for the purchase of D2 with a second from Jason Landry, approved unanimously.

Veterans Flags: Discussion was held about veteran flag placement prior to Memorial Day. The yearly flag swap has already started with both old and new volunteers.

Cemetery Bylaws: Review of the two new bylaws related to historic burial grounds approved by citizens at the spring 2022 town meeting.

Maintenance: Discussion of cemetery maintenance performed by the Forestry Department. It is hoped all cemeteries will be cleaned up by Memorial Day. There are issues at some including stone wall repair.

Installation of Signs/Posts: Progress is being made with new and/or replacements posts and signs.

Right to Way at Hix Cemetery: Bev Baker reported a conversation with Rob Johnson, Forestry Department about clearing out the right of way at the Hix Cemetery per request of the property owner. A formal letter will be sent to Johnson along with the Highway Department outlining the situation with specifics about what is required to clear the overgrown ROW. The property owner no longer will allow town departments to use their driveway to access the cemetery. Additionally a new sign should be placed at the ROW as visitors are guided to the driveway by GPS. A motion to approve formal letters was made by Jason with a second by Connie Wenzel-Jordan, approved unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jason Landry with a second from Connie Wenzel-Jordan at 7:43 PM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 16, 2022 for 6 PM at Francis Farm.

Respectfully submitted: Connie Wenzel-Jordan, Clerk

Meeting Minutes Approved (date): June 30, 2022 **(time):** 6:14 pm

Signature of Cemetery Commission Chair after minutes have been approved:

Beverly A Baker, Chairman (Beverly
Baker, Chairman)