

North Stonington Cemetery Commission

Minutes of Special Meeting. Nov.14 2020

Held at the N'S.Grange Hall

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM. Members present were Diane Preston, David Fede, Paul Ames, Mike Dibble and Mac Gray.

Also present were Michael Carroll as a guest speaker, and Rachel White, N.S. resident.

Michael Carroll was introduced as a historian who is actively involved throughout Connecticut in the cleaning and preservation of historic cemeteries. Mr. Carroll visited several of the cemeteries on Oct 19, 2020, in the company of Diane Preston . The last one visited was the Brown -Randall, Hale #70, which was heavily vandalized several years ago. Mr. Carroll has proposed bringing a cadre of volunteers, including Mr. Greg Duhamel, of Rhode Island , to completely clean, clear, and restore the grave stones. This work is to be on a pro-bono basis. Committee members will attend and aid in this project. Ms. Rachel White also expressed interest in helping with the task.

Mr. Carroll also suggested another resource he could provide, which is Ms. Sarah Sportman, who utilizes ground penetrating radar, to locate grave stones buried under debris due to the passage of time.

It is proposed that this project will commence in early Spring, 2021. All members present are in support of the work. As the time approaches for this action, another Special Meeting will be announced.

David Fede, Treasurer, gave his financial report to the members who attended. He is currently pricing signage for the most visible historic cemeteries and will update us at the next meeting. The style and purchase of the flags needed for next Memorial Day, 2021, were approved. The purchase is to be accomplished early so that there are no delivery problems.

Mike Dibble is going to get a fresh estimate to repair the gates for the Ayers Cemetery. Funds from the account specific to that cemetery will be used for the gate.

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 230 PM.