

**Town of Concord
Cemetery Committee Meeting
January 18, 2018
135 Keyes Road**

Members Present: Mr. Paul Cooke - Chairperson
Ms. Carol Harney
Ms. Whitney Kocher
Ms. Andrea Solomon

Also Present: Mr. Daniel Rowley – Highway & Grounds Superintendent
Ms. Patricia Hopkins – Cemetery Supervisor
Ms. Mallory Price – Administrative Assistant

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- A-1 No deeds were submitted for signature.
- A-2 The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.
- A-3 Review of Agenda (Additions can only be made if not anticipated by the chair at least 48 hours in advance and cannot wait until a future meeting)
- A-4 The next proposed committee meeting is February 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

D-1: CHAIR COMMENTS

Mr. Paul Cooke shared an article about the re-interment of Margaret Lothrop into Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and commented that this is another example of information we could link to the Cemetery website.

D-2: MELVIN MEMORIAL RESTORATION BID AWARD

Mr. Daniel Rowley is working on awarding the Melvin Memorial Restoration project and he would like to discuss the option of keeping the existing slate panels or replacing them. He has spoken with Mr. Joshua Craine of Daedalus, Inc. regarding the rifles, and this led to a discussion about treatment of the existing slate panels that they are set in. Mr. Rowley may need to do a change order to the bid to accommodate treatment of the rifles on the existing slates as this work was not included in the specifications. Mr. Rowley mentioned that Mr. Craine offered the option of resetting the rifles into the current slate panels with small pieces of slate to fill in damaged areas around the rifles and re-pinning the rifles to the slates. The restoration project specifications has a bid alternate to replace the existing slates which includes transferring the rifles and creating new one inch bronze letters. This would bring the slate panels back to the appearance they had when the memorial was first dedicated. Currently, the lettering is engraved in the slates. Mr. Cooke commented that the cement currently around the rifles is simply a temporary fix to secure the rifles until a permanent repair can be made. Mr. Rowley asked Mr. Craine how long new slates could last,

and Mr. Craine said it depends on maintenance; suggesting that yearly maintenance will give them a longer life. Mr. Rowley said maintenance costs would be \$1,000 - \$2,000 per year, and is a more pro-active approach to caring for the memorial. Mr. Cooke confirmed that our options are to 1) replace the slate panels, 2) keep current slate panels with slate patching around the rifles. Mr. Cooke says the cost of yearly maintenance is worth it to maintain the integrity of the slate panels on the Memorial. Mr. Rowley confirmed that if we replace the slates, and award the bid with this option included, the whole project would be \$87,700. Mr. Rowley also mentioned that he has applied for a \$15,000 grant with the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board to aid in future care for the Melvin Memorial, but that award is need-based, and may not happen. Mr. Cooke said we would still have some money left over for maintenance even without the grant, but what about future years? Mr. Rowley said maintenance costs could be included in the budget for subsequent years. Ms. Carol Harney said we could ask the Friends of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery if they would be interested in raising money for maintenance, but they prefer to do new projects, not maintenance.

On an aside, Mr. Cooke showed examples of potential covers for the Melvin Memorial that would protect it better. He offered this idea as something to think about, and he is wondering if it would make sense. Ms. Hopkins said that past attempts to cover the Melvin Memorial have not been successful and may have hastened deterioration, but did keep the snow off. She added that it was designed to be in the sun. Mr. Cooke said we could do something aesthetically pleasing that could help preserve it. He would like the Cemetery Committee to think about it, and he will bring it up at another time.

Mr. Cooke said the Cemetery Committee needs to decide what is the right thing to do with the money for the Melvin Memorial. Ms. Harney said the money was raised to preserve the Melvin Memorial, so she doubts that people would object to us deciding to replace the slate panels and reset the rifles. Ms. Harney and Ms. Solomon both said no one would question trying to get back to what the original slate panels looked like. Ms. Hopkins mentioned that there is no record of why the slate panels were replaced back in the 1940s. During that replacement they added the birthdates of the three brothers. Ms. Kocher asked where the original bronze letters have gone, and Ms. Hopkins says there is no record of what happened to them. Discussion continued about whether the wording on the new slates should include the birthdates even though they were not on the original slates. There is no record about why the birthdates were added; Ms. Solomon said it would be a shame to take away this added information.

Mr. Cooke asked these two questions of the Cemetery Committee: A) are we going to go with the new slate panels, B) are we going to go with the dates of birth. Ms. Solomon motioned to do the new slate panels, Ms. Harney seconded it, and all were in favor. Secondly, do we include the birthdates as shown in the revised version of the slate panels (1940s), or do we match the original slate panels? Mr. Rowley interjected that the original slate panels at the dedication do not have the birthdates; Ms. Kocher said there must be a reason why they were added. Ms. Hopkins said we might consider what the designer and the family did when the slates were originally placed. Mr. Cooke asked Ms. Hopkins to reach out to the Melvin family to see what they would like us to do about the birthdates. Ms. Hopkins said the Melvin family has said in the past that they are fine with us replacing the slate panels. Mr. Cooke said the Cemetery Committee would like to keep the birthdates on the new slate panels, but will honor the Melvin family's wishes regarding these dates. Mr. Rowley confirmed that the new slate panels would cost \$27,000 and the total cost (including the new slates) of the Melvin Memorial Restoration Project will be \$87,700. The time frame for completion is by the end of October, 2018. Mr. Craine will be able to start the project in August 2018, but will need to order the slate panels ahead of time.

D-3: COMMITTEE COMMENTS (relative to issues contained in this agenda or feedback received from resident(s) since last meeting)

None.

D-4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

D-5: SUMMARY OF FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:39

Respectfully Submitted,



Mallory Price, Administrative Assistant
Highway and Grounds Division

Approved,



Paul Cooke, Chairperson
Cemetery Committee