

Cemetery Progress Report – January, 2018 – G. Crosby Town Planner

There were **24** sign-ups at the original kick-off meeting.

At that meeting we had **21** cemetery lots on offer for volunteer inspection. These were all Town-owned cemeteries chosen to avoid private property issues at the start of the project.

Of those **21** sites on offer, **12** people signed up to inspect and document a total of **15** cemeteries.

Of those **15** cemeteries chosen:

6 have been completed and results have been submitted.

4 have been partially complete – volunteers have contacted me.

1 recon was done but the site is completely overgrown and intent is to go back before spring.

4 - No communication with the volunteer and no progress status has been reported.

Miscellany

- Eagle Scout Candidate Samuel Thieme and his scout troop completed a superb cleanup of the Thurston & Lawton Lot (PO-020) off West Main Road near the Newport Water Treatment Plant in June, 2017. A Mr. Stephen Rosasco forwarded a set of photographs to me that he had taken in August after the scouts were done.
- In November, 2017, a Request for Access to Public Records came in from a property owner with a cemetery in her backyard wanting to know if Town funds were available to perhaps put a fence around the headstones and whether there was something in her deed referring to the cemetery. She wanted to make sure any future owners could not damage or remove the plot. We found an investment account with a current balance of \$14,613 (original investment of \$50) pertaining to “Sisson” but were unable to determine if this particular account belongs to her cemetery (PO-023, Sisson Lot). The matter has not yet been settled.
- I received a call from Mr. David Bell, a member of the statewide historical cemetery commission (represents Newport Co). Said he worked with Hugh Hall several years ago to identify lots and replace signs. Say he has nine new signs for various plots and will work with us to get them installed.
- Received a call from Bob Hamilton saying he remembers seeing “four or five small headstones at the east side of Boyd’s Lane along the salt marsh.” Anyone up for some bushwhacking?
- A gentleman heard about the cemetery project and brought in to show me a small 8-page booklet (dated 1897) of the By Laws used to set up the Union Cemetery Corporation. Fascinating. I told him to hang on to it and someone from the Historical Society will contact him to see if he wishes to donate it to the museum.