

GLEN ARBOR TOWNSHIP  
CEMETERY ADVISORY BOARD  
Minutes May 9, 2023, Meeting at Township Meeting Room

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Diane Calsbeek, Julie Hopple, Terri Myers, Linda Dewey, Chairperson, Don Lewis, Board Representative. No public present.

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

Agenda: The agenda was accepted.

Public Comment: None

Minutes of April Meeting were approved as amended

Public Comment: None.

Board of Trustee's Update on CAB: The bid of WorkSmart was accepted for Ground Penetration Radar work, which will be done on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of May, weather permitting.

Five-Year Plan: We need to re-present to the Board of Trustees our five year plan, with updates as to what we have done and new things hoped for in the future. Julie will take our current plan and put in columns for us to work with at our next board meeting.

CAB Membership Status: Linda will be stepping off the Cemetery Advisory Board at the end of December so she can pursue personal interests not available to her with board membership.

We should tell persons who might be interested in working with CAB that there is a position open and that they should contact Pam.

Committee Reports:

*Restoration/Maintenance (Terri & Julie):*

GPR:

Terri spoke with Mike McGarry from WorkSmart, Inc., and learned that the company is planning to be onsite to provide GPR during the week of May 15, and most likely May 16 and 17, weather permitting. A time window for media presence was also discussed. Pam also spoke with Mike and confirmed a short window of time during which the GPR process can be filmed. We await the details of day and time. No further public presence on the site for the bulk of the

task will be permitted due to liability issues.

Track Chair for use on 5-26-23:

After speaking with Kerry Kelly and Lori Toth, it was unfortunately learned that the track chair is unavailable during the time of our cemetery ceremony.

Volunteers for 5-26-23:

Julie and Terri currently have at least 5 volunteers scheduled to assist with parking, organize the students to carry in chairs, and help on the access path and cemetery site. Terri is waiting to hear from several more volunteers.

Stone Markers:

Terri has been in further correspondence with Marsha Buehler from the Omena Historical Society re markers in the Omena Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Marsha reports that Bob Lange, longtime church property caretaker, bought the stone from Concrete Service in Traverse City. Bob believes the stone came from a Wisconsin quarry. There was a minimum order for one ton of stone at the time; they had quite a bit of stone left over, which they gave away. Bob and his family dug all of the holes, mixed the concrete, and set all of the stones.

An email was sent to Swensen Monuments in order to learn if they would still like to visit the cemetery site prior to coming up with an informal estimate. As Terri has not yet heard back from Christina or Andrea, she will try reaching Swensen by phone on Monday. Currently we only have several estimates (depending on size and texture) for 30 markers from Anger Monuments. It is felt the board should shortly come to some agreement on marker type, size, and texture.

Repair of Current Stones:

Ron Kelderhouse has been contacted regarding repair of three Trumbull stones; Terri awaits his reply.

Fencing:

Julie has talked to people from Apple Fencing. They have us on the list for an estimate. Should be able to do it in a couple of weeks. She is going to call to schedule a visit. Terri and Julie will accompany the estimator.

In discussing Terri's report, Don Lewis told us that he worked with Bob Lange on the Omena grave project, that he knows what stone they used for markers on graves, and actually helped put them in place in the cemetery.

In the discussion on fencing, Don informed us that Glen Arbor has hired someone for maintenance and suggested we have that Township maintenance person repair the fence rather than purchase new.

Regarding ground penetrating radar, we discussed the importance of being sure the interior of the fenced area was surveyed. We discussed and agreed that the fencing could be removed if the ground penetrating radar operation required it.

*Education (Linda):*

Field Trip: The April 19 Glen Lake Middle School field trip taken by 2 busloads of 8th graders was comprised of a visit to the Leland Museum, the Empire Museum, the GA Cemetery, a scavenger hunt at the Fisher homestead, a round-the-block walking tour led by Linda Dewey, a bus tour of historical sites on Lake Street and lunch at Cherry Republic. The Record-Eagle and Channel 9-10 covered the story in person.

A student survey afterwards reveals that overall best events of the day (beside lunch!) were the 1) Empire Museum followed by the 2) walking tour and the 3) cemetery. Last place for most students was the Leland Museum, basically because, their teacher felt, there was little guidance this time.

Project notebooks: Ms. Okerlund confirmed that Glen Arbor will be receiving the notebooks covering students work from this and past years' projects.

Stepping down: Ms. Dewey will step back on this project after this season. There is now a written guide for both the walking tour and the Fisher site, and the organization/coordination for the trip can easily be repeated each year. Also, Ms. Okerlund, the teacher, indicates she would like to broaden the scope of this project to include the Empire Maple Grove Cemetery as well as Native Americans. It is not known that any Natives were buried in Glen Arbor. If so, it would be itinerant lumber workers, as no families took up residence in GA. Therefore, it appears that Glen Arbor Township may share the hosting of this affair in the future with neighboring communities. It is not clear at the moment how this will pan out for the school's research and cemetery ceremony.

New - The Education Committee requests that the History Committee conducts a review of the current online files on Google Drive, comparing the shared files with those owned by Andrew White, to make sure that all of Andrew's files are included. It has been found that many files, such as those on the descendants of Joseph Franklin Todd, that have been found in the past year are missing from the current files available to the school. Also, some files include personal email addresses that should be redacted from public files. Diane and Julie volunteered to do this project.

Fourth Annual Glen Arbor Cemetery Memorial Ceremony on May 26: John Sawyer has agreed to give another eulogy, this time on our fourth Civil War veteran, James Lawrence Green. Norm Wheeler will again play taps; Anne-Marie

Oomen will recite her poem; Melissa Okerlund will read the list of 51 buried at the cemetery, and the 8th graders will claim their "person" as she does.

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*Research/History (Diane):* Nothing new.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before CAB, meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Calsbeek, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: 1:30 p.m., June 13, 2023, GA Twp. Meeting Room