

GLEN ARBOR TOWNSHIP
CEMETERY ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes June 13, 2023, Meeting at Township Meeting Room

Meeting called to order at 1:35 p.m.

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

Absent: Diane Calsbeek.

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

Agenda: The agenda was accepted.

Public Comment: None

Minutes of May Meeting were approved.

Public Comment: None.

Board of Trustee's Update on CAB: Pam contacted the Park Service re: entrance to the cemetery. No signage wanted by the Park.

Don discussed possible signage at cemetery, No Camping, No Pets, etc. That's in the works.

Discussion of trading cemetery easement so it belongs to the township.

Property is much larger than 1 acre. Actually 1.57.

Committee Reports:

Restoration and Maintenance Report:

GPR:

Mike McGarry and Shaun Wendell from WorkSmart, Inc. completed the GPR process on the cemetery grounds on 5-16 and 17, and were successful in finding more than 85 burial sites, including a mass grave at the western end of the acreage. Burial site borders were painted and flagged. Six additional areas have been marked as possible sites of markers several inches below the surface. (Linda and Terri gently probed and moved some overlying soil from three of these areas, to a depth of 3-4". No markers were found, although a small, narrow, hollow metal pole was found, along with a nail, at the northern end of the mass burial plot.) Zach Baker logged the GPS coordinates of the gravesites, and developed a site map with their locations. Media representatives Marc Schollett of Up North Live, and Jordan Travis from the Record Eagle were able to be present during a media window while WorkSmart was onsite, and reported the findings to the public.

Stone Markers:

Terri will again contact Christina from Swensen Monuments regarding visiting the cemetery to assess our needs. Her visit was temporarily put on hold during the GPR work and memorial ceremony.

Fencing:

Will the township's maintenance department be involved in the repair/replacement of the current fence? Are we ready to begin thinking about fencing needs to enclose the whole acreage?

Trumbull Marker Resetting and Refurbishing:

Ron Kelderhouse will visit and meet with us in August to begin work on the markers. The zinc Edmond Trumbull headstone can be releveled, but may need concrete work, which is underneath the stone. The homemade stones can be releveled. Ron reports that the James Daley and Nelse Oleson stones can also be reset. He is interested in learning if our current marker placements are accurate, per the GPR findings.

Entry Signage:

Signage regarding prohibited vehicle entry on the access path must be discussed. Park personnel have temporarily placed large logs at the entrance to discourage vehicle use.

Linda suggested that University of MI at Flint has a cemetery program in the archeology department. Consider contacting them regarding digging so that artifacts are not destroyed.

Linda states the Board move ahead with Christina from Swenson Monument. Suggests getting her to the cemetery this month.

Trumbull fencing is to be put on Township Maintenance list per Linda. Fencing of whole acreage will be added to the next 5 year plan.

Education

New title for Education Committee will be the Public Awareness Committee

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 CAB Minutes for June 13, 2023

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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.

New Business:

Volunteers are needed to clean up information on the graves. Linda will ask Pam if a Google Drive can be acquired. The end game is to get a public website with information re: the cemetery.

Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19 to begin the process of cleaning records.

5 Year Plan:

Julie will add information to the table. Next plan will be done the way it was done in the past.

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Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Motion by Terri, seconded by Julie to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Hopple, Acting Secretary

NEXT MEETING: 1:30 p.m., July 11, 2023, GA Twp. Meeting Room