

Exeter Heritage Commission Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2016 - DRAFT

Meeting convened at 10:30 am at the Winter Street Cemetery.

Present: Maura Fay, Pam Gjettum, Julie Gilman, Selectboard Rep.

Guests: Dijit Taylor, Executive Director, LCHIP; Jenna Lapachinski, Historic Resource Specialist, LCHIP; Ben Wilson, Director, State of NH Bureau of Historic Sites.

After introductions the Commission and guests toured the cemetery. Site visits to LCHIP grant proposal properties is part of their process. LCHIP has received over 40 applications in this grant round for a total of over \$6 million but only have \$3 million to disperse. The group reviewed particular stones evidencing various materials and funerary art. The group also visited graves of prominent citizens and the earliest grave.

Mr. Wilson expressed liability concerns regarding the state of health of trees in and near the cemetery. He recommended Urban Tree Service as a resource for further consideration of tree removal. The firm has a reputation for working for the preservation of historic sites and cemeteries in particular so may provide a lower cost solution than firms without such experience.

Tree removal will be a discussion for the Commission in the future.

Further caretaking discussion included the idea of using sheep to “mow” the grass and how that may be good public event and add awareness of this important resource. The Commission will investigate this idea.

Ms. Gjettum was asked to provide LCHIP with the Exeter Historical Society’s information on the maps and inventory of the cemetery.

Ms. Gilman was asked to forward the Winter Street Individual Survey Form produced for the Commission with a previous CLG grant.

LCHIP will contact the Commission in a few weeks to check on the status of the property such as access to Cemetery Trust Funds, volunteer efforts or General Fund budget changes.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie D. Gilman, Selectboard Rep.