



Board of Public Works and Safety

Agenda Item

Cover Sheet

MEETING DATE: May 13, 2025

- ☐ Consent Agenda Item
- ☒ New Item for Discussion
- ☐ Previously Discussed Item
- ☐ Miscellaneous

ITEM #: 11

INITIATED BY: Evelyn Lees

- ☒ Information Attached
- ☐ Verbal
- ☐ No Paperwork at Time of Packets



May 8, 2025

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

FROM: EVELYN LEES 

RE: Permission to remove concrete

I have been told that many years ago, a large flood dislodged several headstones at Riverside Cemetery. The story relayed to me was that no one was sure where the headstones belonged, so they were set horizontally in concrete at the far west end of the cemetery in hopes that someone would identify them. No one ever did. Cemetery survey records dubbed the area "Section M".

In 2022 Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration was completing their project at the cemetery and recommended removing the headstones, explaining their horizontal position was hastening their deterioration. They removed the headstones and were able to find some of their original locations and set them there again. For those locations that remained unknown, they placed the headstones together in an open area and documented their work.

This year is the bicentennial of Riverside Cemetery, since a few years ago we were given credible evidence that the first burial was Lawrence Willison in 1825. It seemed that the area where the old headstones were laid would be desirable for commemorative monument, but the first step is removing the concrete that is left there. Photos of the concrete follow. We request the Board's permission as Trustees of the cemetery for the Street Department to remove the concrete. Future steps will involve a request to contract with a vendor to make sure there are no burials in that area. If there are not, with the Board's permission we will purchase a monument that will have attached a plaque donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution honoring Lawrence Willison. Keep Noblesville Beautiful has offered to provide labor for landscaping around the monument. An agreement for their services will be forthcoming once we determine an area with no burials.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



CITY CLERK

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