

Somers Cemetery Committee

Regular meeting minutes

July 10, 2024

1. Call to order: 6:35
2. members present: Patricia Bachetti, David McCaffrey, Patricia Loftus (chair)
3. Public comment: None present
4. Vote to approve minutes from May 2024 meeting:
Motion to approve: Pat Bachetti, 2nd: David Mc Caffrey vote: 3/0 passed
5. Committee reports:
 - a. Finance: See quarterly report on file in the business office
 1. Progress report on the Irrevocable Trust: Brian Wissinger reported that Morgan – Stanley has chosen not to participate in such an agreement after almost 18 months of waiting for an answer from them. Other companies such as Schwab are now being looked at. An additional report will be offered at the September meeting.
 - b. Sexton: Jeff Buckley reports that multiple grave sites have had additional fill applied and tamped down as ground settles. Seeding will not be done until September when the weather is more amenable.
 - c. Landscaping: John Guzie, not present, no report.
 - d. DPW: Todd Rolland reported that: 1. tree tubes for watering along the entrance to Center Cemetery had been destroyed by a string trimmer. A call to Guzie Landscaping was made and a request to be more careful was made. DPW will replace this time. 2. Mountain Tree has created a bid for removal of dead and damaged trees and shrubs in New West for a total of \$6,000.00. A request will be made through Todd Rolland to remove / grind out only the largest stumps (3 by the street) as DPW will take on the smaller pulls as time allows. It is hoped that the new bid will be less than half of the present job description.
 - e. American Legion: Not present, no report.
 - f. DPW: New trees at Center and Old West are being watered via tubes. One has been replaced at Center as it was in poor condition. A request was made by Veteran's affairs office for sand to help with the raising of government military foot stones. Project should be in place by fall. VA office is waiting for final coordination through the Corrections Office.

Old Business:

- a. Concern forms: One request to clean a memorial stone. NOTE: We do not clean privately owned stones of the modern era. We do occasionally hire a professional restorer to work on historic stones so that they do not deteriorate beyond identification. The family will be given information on products and procedures used by the military in their cemeteries as a suggestion for cleaning their own stone. Additional information will be available on the hiring of a professional restorer if they so choose. Danielle Urbon is the contact.
- b. Update on the landscape architect by David Morgan will be moved to September as Mr. Morgan was unavailable for tonight's meeting.

c. Digital program update. Vendor contact stated that a digital layout is planned and field specialist has been assigned. It will be 6+ months (about January 1st) before the process is ready to be reviewed online.

New Business:

a. Request that a plastic (temporary) grave marker be replaced. That is the responsibility of the funeral home not us. Request denied.

Another family requested that shrubs that were not planted by the town and have since died and been removed be replaced. Only shrubs or trees planted by the town in areas designated by the original landscape architect will be replaced by the town or offered by a donor. No trees or shrubs that are in other areas such as on a side of a memorial stone will be planted by anyone or the town as per regulations as listed in the 2014 rules. Request denied.

b. Sexton – No requests.

c. Landscaping: In ground and tree level wasp nest issue – no report.

d. DPW – New West stump removal covered in Old Business.

e. American Legion: None

f. Landscape architect – Business moved to September. (D. Morgan)

g. Vote on LOGO for new digital page. B. Wissinger presented 6 styles. One has been chosen and will be the design for the digital page from All Funerals.

h. Digital program – discussion of a possible fee structure for adding information. Business Office will handle any editing and questions. No fee to be applied.

i. Upgrading of pricing for plots. 1. A new regulation was made and passed to eliminate a surcharge for out of town residents. Discussion covered the issue that many residents now spend 6 months plus at least 1 day out of state after perhaps living in town for decades and having other family buried here. This must be approved by the Bd. of Select.

2. After discussion a motion was made to upgrade to match surrounding cemeteries a pricing of \$1,000.00 per plot for in ground burials as of October 1, 2024. No change in columbarium burial prices is considered at this time. Motion to approve: Pat Bachetti, 2nd David McCaffrey. Vote: 3/0 passed.

Motion to adjourn @ 8:04. Motion: David McCaffrey, 2nd Patricia Bachetti Passed 3/0.

Next meeting is September 11, 2024

Minutes are not official until approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
Patricia Loftus, chair, interim recording secretary