

Town of Somers
Cemetery Committee Minutes
Special Meeting

April 11, 2012
Somers Town Hall

1. Call to Order

The special meeting was called to order at approximately 7:06 pm by Chairperson Carole Pyne. The following members were present and constituted a quorum: George Warner, Tom Brewer, and Carole Pyne. Also present was David McCaffrey, to act as recording secretary in Irene Percoski's absence, Emily and Denise Jewell, from the Somers Girl Scout troop and representatives from Connecticut Valley Landscaping.

2. Purpose of Special Meeting

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to review and discuss landscaping bids for the next fiscal year and to make selections for awarding of new two-year cemetery landscaping contracts.

3. Bids Review

More than a dozen bids were received which prompted a thorough review and background investigation. Results of the background were discussed; bids reviewed and discussed by committee members.

4. Center Cemetery Selection of Grounds keeping Maintenance Contract

George Warner made a proposal to select Vasseur Landscaping as the contractor to maintain the grounds of Center cemetery. The motion was seconded by Tom Brewer. Discussion followed. All were in agreement that they were very satisfied with the work performed by Gil Vasseur, of Vasseur Landscaping. A vote was called. All were in favor. The motion passed.

5. West Cemetery and North Cemetery Selection of Grounds keeping Maintenance Contract

George Warner made a proposal to select Butler Landscaping as the contractor to maintain the grounds of the West and North cemeteries. The motion was seconded by Tom Brewer. Discussion followed. George Warner said that while the cost was a little higher, the investigation revealed that Butler had a solid reputation of maintaining the grounds of several large old cemeteries similar in nature to the West and North cemeteries. References had been contacted with very positive results. Concern with the maintenance performed by the current contractor, Connecticut Valley Landscaping suggested that a change was in order to provide an improved level of performance. A representative from Connecticut Valley Landscaping requested to speak but was denied due to the rules and procedures of the Special Meeting. Discussion closed at 7:15 pm. Carole Pyne initiated new discussion on Connecticut Valley Landscaping and their past performance issues. Tom Brewer agreed that the work performed by Connecticut Valley Landscaping had been satisfactory. Discussion closed. A vote was called. The vote did not pass. The Motion failed to carry. Tom Brewer made a motion to select Connecticut

Valley Landscaping as the contractor to maintain the grounds of the West and North cemeteries. The motion was seconded by Carole Pyne. A vote was called. Two in favor, one opposed. The motion passed.

6. Stone Restoration/Repair

A proposal had been received by the Chairperson for stone restoration and repair by Jonathan Apel. Initial discussion ensued. George Warner made a motion to approve a contract by Jonathan Apel for stone repair/restoration in the amount of \$4945.00, for the coming fiscal year. Tom Brewer seconded the Motion. Further discussion. George Warner cited the excellent work performed to date by Mr. Apel. A vote was called. All were in favor. The motion passed.

7. FEMA Visit

Carole Pyne reported that she met with members of FEMA recently and conducted a walk-thru and damage assessment of stones after the severe storms last Fall and Winter. A CD of the damage was provided to FEMA to detail the damage. FEMA indicated that they will evaluate the damage and may provide monies for restoration/repair of damaged headstones.

8. Grave Digging Services

The committee chairperson indicated that they were in receipt of the proposal for grave digging services for the next fiscal year from Kentucky Blue. The chairperson conducted a review of costs associated in the area along with recommendations by the town sextant. The proposal was reviewed. George Warner made a motion to approve Kentucky Blue as the contract provider for grave digging services for the next year (May 1, 2012 – Apr 30, 2013). Tom Brewer seconded the Motion. Discussion. A vote was called. All were in favor. The Motion carried.

9. Trees Removal – West Cemetery

A proposal was received by Gil Vasseur to remove trees obstructing graves in West Cemetery (West-West). A motion was made by George Warner to approve Gil Vasseur to remove the identified trees at a cost not to exceed \$625.00. Discussion followed. The Motion was seconded by Tom Brewer. A vote was called. All were in favor. The Motion carried.

10. Somers Girl Scout project

Emily Jewell made a presentation to the committee detailing her Gold Award proposal to identify and mark the stones of service members/veterans beginning in the West Cemetery (West-New). Carole Pyne indicated that the proposal was met favorably by the Board of Selectmen and that endorsement letters were sent to the Girl Scout council by the selectmen and the cemetery committee chairperson. Discussion followed. The committee endorsed the project wholeheartedly. Emily Jewell indicated that she was now awaiting approval by the Girl Scout Council. Miss Jewell has also indicated that several town residents have asked to make donations for the project and that a fundraiser is also planned to cover the cost of the veterans flag holders. George Warner made a Motion to endorse the Girl Scout project to identify and mark the graves of service members and

veterans. The Motion was seconded by Tom Brewer. A vote was called. All were in favor. The Motion carried.

11. Other business

George Warner requested a current price list for cemetery lots and indicated that a special meeting was needed to consider revised pricing for 2012 lots and burials.

12. Adjournment

George Warner moved for adjournment of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Brewer. A vote was called. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David McCaffrey
Recording Secretary (acting)