

Somers Cemetery Committee Meeting

Wednesday July 10, 2013

Town Hall 2 PM

Call to order 2:05 PM

Attending: Carole Pyne (chair), George Warner, Ed Sullivan, Patricia Loftus. Absent: David Morgan

Guest: David McCaffrey

Minutes from April 17, 2013 special meeting were presented. Correction noted that the number of stones to be repaired is 15 not 10. Approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Sullivan produced the financial report of investments and a second of revenue and expenses. Voted to accept. Reports on file with the secretary. Thank you to Mr. Sullivan for his detailed reporting.

OLD BUSINESS:

David McCaffrey reports that 120 veteran markers in New West and 160 civilian footstones have been lifted and reset in sand. The work was done by a combination of volunteers from the newly regenerated Somers American Legion and a crew from the minimum-security prison. More than 1.5 tons of sand has been used for the repaired base of each stone. David has photographed each stone for reference. An additional 30 veteran's plots do not have stones and will need a concrete base prepared upon arrival of the footstones. The VA will supply the 30 stones at no cost but the foundation will be about \$100.00 per placement. (See below.)

The Legion is the group that requested use of a prison crew and the committee approved the arrangement with thanks.

The committee also approved a request that the local Legion members be allowed to receive training from Jay on how to make and set the concrete foundations for the newly requested stones. The Legion will also take on the cost of the foundations. Many thanks to the Legion for this effort.

David McCaffrey reports that the newly created Legion Auxiliary (25 members) will continue the Girl Scout project from this spring.

It has also been reported that we are now an official "Wreaths Across America" town. The number of wreaths to be delivered in December of 2013 had not yet been confirmed.

David also reported and brought evidence of damage to the brand new military markers done by vendor while mowing. The vendor was present and vowed to investigate who might have done this and will also replace the markers.

Additional old business:

For the next meeting in October a possible increase of fees due to expenses will be considered.

New street signs are still being investigated. David McCaffrey will have his notebook with photos of area signage for that meeting.

The Town Engineer used Mr. Wilson's property map to establish corrected boundaries for West.

Carole Pyne reported that Jonathan Appell has done repairs in North as of 7.3.2013.

In other old business Patricia Loftus reported that the Somers Public Library is enthusiastic about the possibility of receiving any hard or electronic copies of cemetery records and maps. It was learned that there are many requests for information by people doing research that come in during the evenings and other hours when Town Hall is not open. Availability via online search will also be considered.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Report made through a letter from Jonathan Appell concerning the damage of a number of additional stones in West. Motion made by Patricia Loftus to repair 15 additional stones bringing the total to 30 for the season. Vote passed unanimously. Cleaning of the Hamilton vault will be delayed due to questions of

the possibility of leakage into the vault. Request for more information for October. Vendor for New West has flagged bushes to be taken out in July and / or August. **It is also noted that the table stones in North are being used for parties and that glass bottles and beer cans are being left which become a safety issue for the employees who are mowing and visitors. The State Police will be notified and requested to tour the area at night.**

- b. Large pine to be removed from North in July by Urban Foresters. Stones that may have been damaged by the tree roots or limbs will be repaired next year.
- c. Gloria Reis, audience member, requested in writing and in person replacement of shrub for Center plot #744. Approved. Kousa Dogwood, 5-6' to be installed by approved vendor. Cost to be borne by Mrs. Reis who was advised to make her check out to the town.
- d. Letter from Ms. Feuerstein of Springfield presented concerning a New West stone with a chip discovered by her. The WWII vet stone was raised by the Legion and a photo shows that the chip existed earlier and was not done recently. The letter is in the secretary's file.
- e. Multiple letters of complaint from one Frank Orton are now on file with the secretary. A letter was sent to the committee chair and copies were also sent to each committee member. A home phone call had in the past been received by the Chair and has been noted. He has been advised that his complaint is out of order due to his not following the published rules of placing items on cemetery property.
- f. Center Cemetery will be fertilized in the fall as proposed by vendor Gill Vasseur.
- g. Center Cemetery will have large viburnum bushes trimmed after leaf fall in the autumn.
- h. It was discussed that threatening letters sent to members or the committee in general will be kept on file and if a pattern develops the State Police will be contacted. Threatening phone calls to the homes of committee members will not be tolerated, the person receiving the call will contact co-members and the state police will then be contacted.

- i. Joint program with the Somers Historical Society with help from the Somers High School Drama club and / or Somers Village Players will be further investigated. The purpose is to have a dramatic tour of the North or Old West cemeteries in the future.
- j. Other new business: Patricia Loftus requested that the east boundary of North Cemetery also be investigated and marked if possible. She also noted that the iron decorative fencing on a North cemetery plot near Springfield Rd has broken away from the stone pillars and could be used to lever and break more pillars. Consideration of request of Old Sturbridge Village blacksmith for ideas on repair. Pat will request information from OSV for a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM

Next meeting October 9, 2013 2 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Loftus