

Somers Cemetery Committee  
Minutes from 03.13.2019 regular meeting

**1. Call to order 6:15 PM.**

**2. Committee Members present:** Pat Loftus (Chair), David Morgan, Casey Biega, Bonnie Kumiega. Tim Keeney was absent.

**3. New Secretary:** Pat Loftus announced the need for a new recording Secretary since Pat Loftus elected new chair. David Morgan nominated Casey Biega, Bonnie Kumiega second. Vote to accept 3/0 (Casey did not vote).

**4. Approval of minutes** from the November 14, 2018 meeting. A motion was made by Bonnie Kumiega to amend the typographical error concerning the date of the meeting from the 1.14.2018 date to the correct date of 11.14.2018. Motion was made to second by David Morgan. Vote to accept 4/0. No regular January meeting was held due to lack of quorum.

**5. Added Agenda Items:** Jay D'Aleo to submit new rates for grave opening fees. Discussion concerning date of spring clean-up of cemeteries.

**6. Reports:**

A. Finance: See report from Brian Wissinger in the business office.

B. Investments: See report given by Kevin Nichols of Morgan Stanley in Business Office.

C. American Legion- No representative present.

D. Sexton: Jay D'Aleo present.

1. Jay spoke of an issue with a 12 grave lot (a 4 plot) (Plus 8 plot) in New West Cemetery which was originally purchased around 1960 and was sold in 1985 to another party. There was a request made by a funeral home to open a specific grave for an interment. Current owner has paperwork showing the purchase transactions through private party and was under the impression that there were no interments in the lots. Jay found two vaults in the lot. The cemetery has no records of sale or as to who is interred in the lot. Jay was able to resolve immediate burial issue but will need to probe lot when weather allows.

2. Jay D'Aleo presented his new rates for digging of grave space. Discussion also covered the lack of stated fees for infant graves by size of casket, and additional fees for inurnments of urns larger than 11x11x11 or a fee for urn vaults which requires larger openings and depth. The Committee reviewed the increases for the new fees proposed. It was agreed by the committee that the fees were in line with inflation. David Morgan made a motion that we accept the new proposal and extend Mr. D'Aleo's contract for a period of two years. Motion was also made to send to the Selectmen for approval. Motion was second by Bonnie Kumiega. Notation was made to have further discussion on overtime fees, infant and urn opening fees next meeting after the committee members can review current opening pricing.

E. Landscaper- No representative attended from Guzie.

A. Discussion of spring clean-up; would commence prior to Easter/Holy week, With public notification in Weeks of April 1-13 with clean up starting the week of April 12<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that cemeteries are littered with

Christmas wreaths, holiday ornaments and other various broken items. The committee is concerned about the amount of items that could prove hazardous when the landscaper has to start mowing. Discussion led to if the committee should be able to remove an immediate threat to the safety of the landscapers or visitors to the cemetery and place those items in the rear disposal area. A motion was made by Pat Loftus to have clean up notification start April 1<sup>st</sup> with legal notice in paper and sandwich boards placed in cemeteries. After the two week notification, Guzie Landscapers would start the removal of items on April 12, 2019. David Morgan second the motion. Motion passed 4/0 vote. Pat Loftus noted that she will ask Brian Wissinger to have the spring clean-up published in paper and to notify Guzie Landscaping of the dates and to ask them to place sandwich boards in Cemeteries.

7. **Old Business-** Columbarium reports

Sub Committee still working on proposal. Need additional spec info

8. **New Business**

- A. Todd Rolland of DPW requested review of Pease Plantings. Documentation was given to Jay D'Aleo and he will meet with Todd to review.
  - B. Sub Committee of David Morgan and Casey Biega, to complete revision of Rules and Regulations for the cemetery for review at next meeting. Documentation needs to be streamlined and made more user friendly for owners and purchasers of new lots.
  - C. Discussion of tree damage in New West in the back left corner facing interior of cemetery. Two trees split and one fell on existing monument during storm knocking a monument from the base. Business office will notify lot owner of the damage if records are available and reachable. DPW will work on removal of debris after notification. Committee to revisit situation next meeting.
  - D. Casey brought to the committee's attention that the stone wall running parallel with RT 190, had a portion fall down near the end where the Keeney tomb is located. DPW will be notified to see if they can put the stones back.
9. **Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Biega

Recording Secretary

Minutes are not final until reviewed and approval voted on at the next regular scheduled meeting.

Video of this meeting can be found on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCitLJvpaGg5rGsVVbsUYK8A>