

SOMERS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 13, 2016

SELECTMAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM 6 PM

1. Call to order 6:01

(Information session held until a quorum arrived @ 6:35)

2. Members present: Carole Pyne – chair, Casey Biega, Patricia Loftus, David Morgan

Guests: Michael Marinaccio – Town CFO, David McCaffrey, Jay D'Aleo

3. Approval of minutes from past meetings:

May 7, 2015 – Special meeting. Vote to approve with corrections (typos) noted / pass.

July 29, 2015 – Special meeting. Vote to approve / pass with corrections (typos) noted. - #2 under the American Legion report – The flag ash repository has not been completed. It is on the list for the spring of 2016.

October 13, 2015 – Vote to approve – passed.

4. Treasurer's Report: Mike reported on both the investment balance and the profit / loss. See report on file in the CFO's office. Motion to accept / Casey. Second/ Pat. Passed.

5. Investment report: Tom Forma (Forma Group) presented information on the investment accounts after a rocky start in the world of investments during January 2016. Because a number of our investments are in "cash" during the transition from a former group to Forma we were accidentally protected from much of the market down turn. Report is on file with the CFO's office. The Forma Group has not had our accounts long enough to create an extensive profile. Thank you to Mr. Forma for attending and giving such detail in hard copy format.

6. American Legion Report: David McCaffrey reported that the middle school Citizen's Project completed just prior to Veteran's Day was very successful. The students with supervision cleaned a number of veteran's head stones and raised several footstones in Center Cemetery. The group has requested that they be allowed to return in the spring and do more of the stones in time for Memorial Day. This was an important job well done. Thanks to M.B. Avery grades 5-8 for their work. We welcome their continued assistance in keeping our cemeteries looking well care for.

The flagpole from the Senior Center has been cleaned and installed at North Cemetery. The Legion thanks Patriot Flags for their assistance in the cleaning and installation.

David McCaffrey reported a problem when leaving medallions in place during the winter. It is difficult to plow or dig. In conjunction with Jay D'Aleo a suggestion was made to use in ground tabs for markers. There is a suggestion of a one-year notice to move from medallions to a ground tab. (Not in the form of a motion / not voted upon)

Wreaths Across America – Each cemetery received a wreath for December.

Retired flags / ash urn will be installed in the spring of 2016. There will be a dedication.

7 & 8. Sexton's report: Jay D'Aleo concurred with the report on the medallions and use of ground tags for winter markings. A chart prepared by the finance department showed the costs of landscaping over the past 5 years and it seems the cut back on the number of mowings is helping to rein in costs. This past year was a very dry period so it may not be the most accurate gauge. Additional data will be helpful.

9. Subcommittee: Report on SWOT – Lists of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats. All members asked to mark the 5 most important for each category. Collation of information will be presented at the next meeting. A five-year business plan will be designed from this data.

10. Chair report: DPW very responsive to requests.

The Chair has received a letter of resignation from George Warner. Letter accepted with regret.

A new member is needed in order to assure a quorum. Several names were discussed and interest will be ascertained.

Motion to adjourn: 7:31 David Morgan, Second Casey Biega, passed

Minutes are not voted on until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Next regularly scheduled meeting: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM**