

# SOMERS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

JULY 13, 2016

TOWN HALL SELECTMEN'S CONFERENCE ROOM 6 PM

1. Call to order: 6:00

2. Member's present: Carole Pyne (chair), Casey Biega, Bonnie Kumiega, David Morgan, Patricia Loftus, (secretary) Guests: Brian Wissinger, John Guzie, Jay D'Aleo, David McCaffery

3. Treasurer's Report: Brian Wissinger stood in for town CFO.

1. Vanguard is "resistant" to dissolving the "non-existent" partnership in order to transfer funds to new accounts. The town finance office is still working on resolving the issue.

2. The transfer of money from investments in transition were paid to the town and made the balance due to the town "0". See balance sheet.

3. Landscaping costs are down mostly due to the drought and mowing being unnecessary.

4. Draft of the business plan has been sent to the sub-committee.

5. Center cemetery has 924 plots. 555 are available. With present sales per year averages we have approximately 23 years left within the presently designed site.

6. Discussion of cremation lots from 1982/83 designs vs. what we need now and in the future. Changes to consider a columbarium will be reviewed by the committee.

4. Investment Report:

1. Representatives from the Forma Group are on vacation. Written balance sheets from them are available in the business office. Investments are doing well.

5. Approval of meeting minutes: Motion to Approve: Bonnie Kumiega, second: Casey Biega. Vote: Passed 5-0. (Corrected typo of meeting date from 5.9 to 5.11 after the meeting).

6. American Legion (David had to leave. He returned later.)

7. Sexton's Report: A committee member commented that 2 open foot stone holes need to be covered. Fall liability. Jay will take care of it.

8. Landscaper's Report: Shrubs are trimmed. Haven't mowed in awhile as it is so dry. Found flag and medallion stands damaged. Vandalism considered.

9. Seasonal Clean up signs: John Guzie has samples of "sandwich board" style signs. Motion to approve the purchase of fire (5) signs, one for each cemetery and one for Town Hall front lawn. Motion made by Casey Biega, second by Bonnie Kumiega. Passed 5-0. The five signs approved are to be purchased from the Sign Factory.

10. Review of large street sign design for 4 cemeteries. Signs are to be installed by DPW and perpendicular to the street. A sign sample was sent to committee after almost 2 years of

review. Motion to approve the design and purchase: David Morgan, second: Casey Biega. Passed 5-0 David McCaffrey will source the company for construction as he did most of the research over the passed several years. (Thank you David.)

11. Subcommittee: No report.

12. Chairperson's Report:

1. Written complaint from someone out of state concerning the burial of a cat on a plot and posted on Facebook as part of a dispute between two persons. Motion to have the First Selectman notified of the complaint and to have the Town Attorney advise of the next step to be taken. Motion to proceed as stated above by David Morgan, seconded by Carole Pyne. Passed 5-0. 2. Jay has been notified of the above complaint. 3. Our regulations forbid the burial of animals in our cemeteries.

4. Complaint by Lisa Potrikus that her father's stone in New West, 1981 Anthony J. Cormier, was crooked and off of foundation. Jay D'Aleo has been notified and it has been corrected.

5. A diseased tree in Center Cemetery has been cut down by John Guzie due. The committee plans to replace it when a new landscape plan is completed (2017?).

6. Grants are available from the CT Trust for Historic Places. ([www.cttrust.org](http://www.cttrust.org)). One criterion is that if the property is listed on the State Register of Historic Places it might become eligible. We have one famous person buried in Old West, Secretary of State Hon. Leverett Erwin Pease who was born 2.14.1818 and died 4.4.1883. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention from Connecticut in 1860. He was the Secretary of the State of CT 1866 – 1869. We also have Civil War soldiers buried in Old West. Casey has the information and will report back in September.

7. Jon Appel has marked graves stones to be repaired in Old West. (18 or so). Chair has the photos and a chart. Repairs should be completed in August.

13. Correspondence: See above 12.1 & 12.4.

14. Added Items:

1. Pat brought up concerns about media reports stating towns will be held responsible for the costs to be incurred if an unclaimed body is assigned to their town. Casey stated that the death rate has gone up 17% due to opioid deaths. Discussion is to be continued.

2. Pat also reported that the "bizarre" mail received last month has been turned over to the state police. The person sending large packets of rambling mail is local.

15. Next meeting: September 14, 2016, 6PM, Town Hall 16. Adjournment: 7:27 PM

Minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Loftus, Committee Secretary