

Somers Cemetery Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

6:30 P.M. Town Hall Lower Meeting Room

1. Call to order 6:33 P.M.

2. Members present: Chair Patricia Loftus, Casey Biega, and Timothy Keeney

3. Prior meeting minutes reviewed. Correction was made to meeting dates in Old Business. It was noted the change in dates was for July which was changed to the 22nd, and September's meeting was to stay as the 9th. Tim Keeney made the motion that we accept the minutes with the correction. Patricia Loftus 2nd. Motion approved.

4. Reports

A. Finance: Financial Statements reviewed. We experienced some larger withdrawals for maintenance bills with the necessary trimming of trees and the repair of the wall failure lining Old West.

B. Investments. We are experiencing a slight down turn in the current investment funds from the losses in the market due to the current health situation. We also saw the withdrawal for the Columbarium Purchase from the investments. Morgan Stanley will be present at our September meeting and in the meantime the Finance Department is in regular contact with them.

C. American Legion-David McCaffrey was present and stated that he has been appointed as the new Director of the Department of the Veteran's Affairs for the Town of Somers. He recommended changing from the American Legion to have the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs act as the liaison to the cemetery and that David would attend the meetings as a non-voting member of the committee. A motion was made by Tim Keeney to accept the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to serve as the liaison to the Somers Cemetery Committee and Patricia Loftus 2nd. The motion was approved.

D. Sexton-Jay D'Aleo was not present.

E. Landscaper- John Guzie was not present.

F. DPW- Not needed

5. Old Business

A. Columbarium pricing. Clarification of the pricing for the sale of Columbarium Niches was discussed. Top tier of the Columbarium for double niche will be \$1975.00, 2nd and 3rd tier will be \$1875.00 and 4th and 5th tier near bottom will be priced at a discount due to location of \$1675.00.

B. Opening /Closing Fees for Columbarium Niche.

1. Discussion on pricing for the Columbarium opening/closing fee would be the same fees currently on our pricing structure for ground inurnment of cremated remains. Tim Keeney made a motion to accept the current pricing structure for the Columbarium and Casey Biega 2nd. Motion was approved.

C. Discussion of pricing for Inscription of Niche Fronts.

1. It was agreed that the pricing would be \$175.00 for the first ten characters and \$8.00 for each additional character added. Tim Keeney made a motion to accept the pricing for the inscription work. Casey Biega 2nd. Motion was approved.

ALL THE ABOVE UNDER OLD BUSINESS WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN FOR APPROVAL.

D. Columbarium rules & regulations and Purchase Agreement.

1. Casey Biega gave to all the members a set of rules and regulations she put together based on what many other cemeteries are using. She also drew up a purchasing agreement for review. Tim Keeney will review the documents for legality and we will make changes if needed and put it to a vote at next meeting. Once voted on we look to start selling the Columbarium Niches.

6. New Business

A. Committee proceeded with the discussion of spring clean-up. The date of March 29, 2020 was believed to be the best date. This would give Guzie Landscaping two weeks to complete the clean-up before April 10th which is Good Friday so families can decorate for Easter. A motion was made by Tim Keeney to agree to the date of March 29th, 2020 as the projected start date of spring clean-up and Patricia Loftus 2nd the motion. Motion was approved. Pat said she would notify John concerning the dates and to have him put out the sandwich boards. Brian said he would take care of the announcement in the Journal Inquirer and town website.

B. Discussion concerning flags and medallions. David McCaffery said that the flags were removed from gravesites on December 1st for the winter. He is getting ready to order new flags for installation on Veteran's grave sites. Installation will take place Memorial Day weekend with the help of the girl scouts. Dave is looking into replacing the upright flag holders with a flush medallion to hold the flag. These are secured better into the ground, where movers, heavy equipment and vault trucks have less of a chance of damaging the flags and holders. This will also allow for the mowing crews to know exactly where the flags should be replaced after mowing. Dave stated that the American Legion purchased 2500 of the former plastic flag holders and they went through all of them in a short period of time with significant cost to the American Legion. The new medallions are more costly but should last a lot longer and won't need to be replaced as frequently. It would be a cost savings to the American Legion. A discussion followed concerning setting up a donation program in town to help offset the cost of purchasing.

8. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Meeting minutes are not considered approved until voted upon the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 13, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted

Casey Biega, Secretary