

**Somers Cemetery Committee
Special Meeting
Wednesday, July 29, 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, Timothy Keeney and Ann Levesque.

3. Prior meeting minutes reviewed. No corrections are needed to be made to meeting notes of March 11, 2020. Due to this being a special meeting, voting to accept the meeting notes will be done on our September 9th meeting.

4. Reports

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

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 and transfers to the operating account from the Cemetery Endowment Fund for the expenses mentioned above. Despite the expenditures we finished with a gain in the operating funds (in the black) for the fiscal year! 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. David said that there is great deal of interest in the columbarium on behalf of the Veterans. David and Tim Keeney discussed that they are looking at creating uniform rules for the Veterans or a chart of plans. David discussed continuing to work in conjunction with the kids from the Somers Public Schools and the SCCIT in order to continue to raise the sunken flush markers in Somers Center Cemetery. He is looking to coordinate help from the local prison population (after Covid) and the girl scouts. David stated that about 1/3 of the stones have been raised. David discussed the change from the upright medallions to ground medallions next spring, which would alleviate the problem with the medallions being destroyed or misplaced. This would also reduce the problems with mowing. Dave discussed the flag fund/purchase of flags for the girl scouts to install on Veteran's graves.

D. Sexton-Jay D'Aleo was not present. In attendance was Carol Peters. She wanted to discuss her family plot in Center Cemetery, Section 1, # 807. Her request was concerning shrubbery that has grown to the point that it is unsightly. Could the committee allow and find something to replace it with that was more esthetic and possibly pink in coloring? The committee had no objections to her request and we have forwarded her request to Todd Rolland from public works to see what options are available to replace the shrubbery. Request concerning an installation of an obelisk on an existing lot in North Cemetery will be discussed under new business.

E. Landscaper- John Guzie was not present. There was a discussion concerning a bee problem in Center Cemetery. Todd Rolland of public works has been notified of the problem and he is handling the bees.

5. Old Business

A. Columbarium:

1. Rules for use/approval. Tim Keeney reviewed the rules and regulations written for the Columbarium after the last meeting. Tim Keeney made a motion to approve the Columbarium rules as submitted, Casey Biega second the motion. Motion was approved.

2. Contract Agreement- Approved by Select Board and/T. Keeney as well as the purchase agreement. Tim made the suggestion that on the Columbarium Niche Purchase Agreement to amend the last line to read "All engraving is to be completed by the cemetery approved engraver with all lettering and fees to be paid in full by the purchaser (s) or responsible party, **to approved engraver**, prior to the work being completed. Tim Keeney made a motion to accept the Columbarium Niche Purchase Agreement with the above change. Casey Biega 2nd the motion. Motion was approved.

3. Delivery and Installation Date. Foundation is poured. We are anticipating arrival of the Columbarium shortly. The current health crisis has interfered with the anticipated delivery date of August 1, 2020.

4. Date to start sales of Columbarium. It was decided that sales of the Columbarium will commence one week after it is installed and Rogers Memorial is satisfied with the unit and has their final approval.

5. Tri-Fold Flyer to be created for the sales of the Columbarium. Tim Keeney made a motion that we use DG Graphics in Somers to help with the creation of the hand out. Pat Loftus 2nd the motion. Motion was approved.

6. New Business

A. The Wood family with rights of burial in an existing five grave lot in North Cemetery is asking the committee to consider the approval of an Obelisk (monument) to be erected on the existing lot. The Obelisk will not follow the established parameters for size restrictions per cemetery rules. Our sexton, Jay D'Aleo with committee member Casey Biega, physically went to North Cemetery to map out the placement of the monument foundation to see if it was possible. They found that centering the monument in the lot as requested would result in the loss of a full burial in grave 3 due to the size of the base of the Obelisk. This would impair opening for a standard burial with vault interment due to an interment and a monument placed properly on an adjacent lot. Per discussion the committee decided that the monuments look and structure fell in line with existing obelisks that were installed in North cemetery a long time ago and that it would add appeal to the cemetery. It was noted that the family making the request for installation must realize that approval of such installation would result in the loss of a full grave interment in grave space number three and that only cremated remains could be installed in that grave space. Tim Keeney discussed the need for a witnessed and notarized statement from the family acknowledging the loss of the full grave with the installation of the monument. Tim Keeney made two motions, first a motion to exempt the height and base restrictions for the Wood Obelisk. Casey Biega 2nd the motion. Motion was approved. Tim Keeney made an additional motion to accept the request for the install of the Obelisk for the Wood family in North Cemetery contingent on the receipt of a notarized

statement from the Wood Family with their acknowledgement and their agreement of the grave loss. Casey Biega 2nd the motion. Motion was approved.

B. Brian Wissinger and Mike Marinaccio brought to our attention the request by William and Theresa Munson that their purchase of Lots 420 and 421 (each two grave lots) in Somers Center Cemetery be treated as a four grave lot for the purpose of installing a monument with the larger base that is allowed on four grave lots. Pat Loftus made a motion that the lot be combined as a four grave lot so that the size of monument requested can be installed. Casey Biega 2nd the motion. Motion was approved.

C. Discussion to consider the use of the quarterly town magazine. It was decided to use the tri-fold flyer for now and leave the magazine as an option is needed.

D. Communications to Town Hall. There were complaints concerning the water pump at Center Cemetery not working. The water pump has now been repaired at a cost of \$500.00. The installation of a direct water line from the street was investigated, but at a cost of \$14,000.00 it is being tabled at this time.

8. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Meeting minutes are not considered approved until voted upon the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 9, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted

Casey Biega, Secretary