

Somers Cemetery Committee Minutes May 11, 2022

1. Call to Order : 6:30
2. Members present: David McCaffrey, Patricia Bachetti, Patricia Loftus (chair), Ann Levesque (arriving after 6:30)
3. Vote to approve January minutes (reviewed in March), passed 3/0
Vote to review and approve March minutes, passed 3/0
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. Finance: Brian Wissinger (not present) Reports available in the business office
 - b. Sexton: Jay D'Aleo – not present. Pricing report for 2022 sent to Business Office. To be reviewed by Finance and brought back to the committee at July meeting.
 - c. Landscaping: Neither John Guzie (nor representative) present. Write letter requesting a representative at the July meeting. Too many outstanding questions about projects.
 - d. American Legion – Paul Martinello, Memorial Day - flags will be in place but new ground level flag holders are not yet in from the manufacturer. Upon arrival approximately 1/3 of Center Cemetery will be done first.
 - e. Veteran's Office – Request for columbarium rack cards. New cards will be ordered after the landscaping is completed and photographed.
 - f. DPW – See new business "B"
5. Old Business
 - a. Shrub removal Old West: Still waiting for report from J. Guzie re: Champion / Howard plot.
 - b. Report on Socha plot buy back. Report from Brian Wissinger needed.
 - c. Continue discussion of possible buy back policy change. Draft shows: 1. Original owner must return original deed or certificate. 2. Minimum length of ownership is 5 years. 3. Return of ownership of plot permission to the town for the repurchase at the original price. 4. Plot must be usable for another sale. (It can not be 1 of 2 or part of a multiple that is not able to have its own grave stone. If in a large family section, it cannot be inside other family graves. 5. Transfer goes through the Business Office of the Town not the committee but must be approved by the committee.
 - d. Electrical outlet near flag pole to be installed by December 17th with DPW help.

6. New Business:

a. Updated pricing from Sexton does include Cremation Burials. We need pricing of burials within privately owned memorial stones with cremation niche(s).

b. Discussion of purchase of "Dog Waste Station(s) at a cost of \$257.77 each. The committee discussed and voted (4/0) to not participate in having a station in Center Cemetery. Having signage stating no dogs and then having a station sends a mixed message. The rule remains – No dogs. Those who are found to be in violation, especially of a pet off leash that is soiling on the property will be reported to Somers Police. For decades rules have been posted online, on property signs at each cemetery in town and in the rules handed to those who purchase grave sites. No one can say they didn't know if they look at the posted rules.

c. Consider hiring a gravestone restorer to continue work last planned about 4 years ago in North and/or Old West. A number of stones including those of soft Brownstone material are in danger of snapping as they have leaned well beyond a safe point. Motion to request Jonathan Apel a noted restorer to access and complete work to not exceed \$5,000.00. Motion / D. McCaffrey, 2nd Ann Levesque. Passed 4/0.

d. A number of newer graves have had the soil settle and compact over the past 1-3 years and are in need more soil and grass seed. A check of sites and repairs will be requested of Jay D'Aleo as his crew is in town for work. Chair has a partial list of names.

e. Considerations for July 13th meeting – Pot hole fill in New West. Discussion of lawn care for fall 2022 (lime, fertilizer, lack of ability to water). Discussion of suggestion from Brian Wissinger made after the May meeting that the committee arrange for reseeding (slice & seed), fertilizing and watering. Note: The small well on the Center property is not designed for large area watering. A temporary hydrant / meter and line from the water company would have to be rented along with a fee for water.

Adjournment: 8:45. Next meeting July 13th.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Loftus (chair)