

Somers Cemetery

Meeting Minutes 9.14.2022

1. Call to order: 6:30
2. Members present: Ann Levesque, David McCaffrey, Pat Bachetti, Patricia Loftus (chair), David Morgan (guest)
3. Review, correct and vote to approve minutes from July's meeting -passes 4/0
4. Committee reports:
 - a. Finance – Not present, no report
 - b. Sexton – Not present, no report
 - c. Landscaping – Not present, no report
 - d. American Legion – Not present, no report
 - e. Veteran's office – (D.McC) Ground level flag holders not yet arrived, volunteer vets do walk the cemeteries to check the condition of all flags and replace as needed.
 - f. DPW – Not present, no report
5. Old Business – Restoration expert has completed the repairs to at least 15 stones of historical significance and applied a cleaning solution to 15 or more in Old North Cemetery in order to maintain them for safety reasons. Invoice had been submitted to the business office for payment prior to Labor Day. Photos on file with the chair.
6. New Business:
 - a. Discussion of a gravesite in New West that has had an extensive memorial garden created with concrete bench and multiple other items (12 or so solar lights, wind chimes, flags, ornaments, trinkets, photo, storage totes for visitors that do not conform to the written and published rules and policies of the Committee. Family will be provided with a written set of rules / regulations and a letter notifying them that all decorations including the concrete bench and large amount of mulch must be permanently removed by October 31 in order to be in line with the fall clean up schedule. This is to be done at the owners' expense. Motion approved. Passed 4/0
 - b. Discussion of second grave site in New West with a flat marker bordered by a short wooden fence and planted flowers. These items are non-conforming and must be removed. Research will be done on the deed holder and a letter will be sent to the family with a date of October 31 as the deadline for removal of non-conforming items.

c. Discussion of major cleanup of multiple non-conforming items which is an ongoing problem. Some items are a safety issue and other items just become weathered and unsightly. Among these items are borders, pots, planters, bird houses, bird feeders, hanging ornaments, wind chimes, pin wheels, statuary, balloons and other decorations that may cause harm to cleaning crews or visitors. Notification of issues to the committee is encouraged. Written notification is required through the business office. Please do not leave phone messages.

d. Committee members have received a copy of the posted 2014 rules and regulations. A beginning of a review will start at the November meeting. It is hoped that a shortened version will be available mid 2023.

e. A discussion of cemetery management software that would put all records for all 4 cemeteries in digital format has begun. Multiple companies offer custom programs with plot finder / ID by GPS, veteran highlighting, public ancestral access to name a few options are cloud based with an initial fee and an annual fee with "free" upgrades. We have requested the expertise of former committee member David Morgan to help us through this process. He will be attending an industry convention in the coming months and will look for possible solutions to present to us. (Thank you David!)

Additional item: In order to circumvent any weather event in November a meeting calendar for 2023 was presented and approved. A separate posting will be made for this schedule.

Meeting adjourned 7:40

Next meeting: November 9th @ 6:30 PM

Minutes are not official until approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Loftus
Committee chair