

# Somers Cemetery Minutes

## January 11, 2023

1. Call to order: 6:30
2. Members present: David McCaffrey, David Morgan, Pat Bachetti, Ann Levesque, Patricia Loftus (chair)
3. Public Comment: None (one person present)
4. Vote to approve November's minutes: 1. November 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, 4-0 passed, w/1 abstention due to absence. 2. November 29, 2023 special meeting, 5/0 passed.
5. Committee reports:
  - a. Finance – Brian Wissenger not present, year-end report available.
  - b. Sexton – introduction of Jeff Buckley of Buckley Cemetery Services. 33 years experience with Jay D'Aleo. Jeff will guarantee his prices for 2 years (same \$ as D'Aleo).
  - c. Landscaping – John Guzie. Phone message left requesting information on the date of notification to the town of a fuel surcharge being applied and a question of how it was structured. No response. Motion made by David Morgan to request a letter be sent to John Guzie from Brian Wissenger requesting that Mr. Guzie be present at the March meeting. 5/0 passed.
  - d. American Legion- Through email, no new information
  - e. Veteran's Office – Wreaths Across America successful, 450 wreaths total, every veteran's grave in Center Cemetery received one plus many in West and New West.
  - f. DPW – Email response, nothing at this time.
6. Old Business:
  - a. The approved 2023 meeting calendar was discussed again after a request from Mr. Wissenger to change meetings to a day time slot. Discussion was held on the composition of the committee over the years and found it was far more difficult to find those able to meet during the day as they either had to be retirees or own their own businesses and could make the time to attend. It is hoped that a diverse age group can be better attained with meetings being in the evening as other boards, commissions and committees schedule theirs. It was also far more difficult for a member of the public to attend, ask questions and make requests when meetings were during the day. Motion from David Morgan / 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann L. Vote taken to maintain the meetings as posted - 5/0.
  - b. RFP to expand Center Cemetery mapping of the outer areas. Request for bidding to be sent to the Finance Office. Motion to approve D. Morgan / 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann L. Vote 5/0. David Morgan will be

giving Brian Wissenger a list of prospective companies to start with. Bids and companies to be reviewed by the committee.

6.c. Finalize a Buy Back Policy. Policy to be brought to the Board of Selectmen for approval by the committee.

[ This change is being considered in order to extend the usability of the center oval of Center Cemetery. This policy is not being considered for North, Old West or New West, none of which is considered an active cemetery for sales.

1. Owner must return the original deed or certificate.
2. Return of ownership of any size plot to the town will be at the original purchase price.
3. Plot must be usable for another sale and free and clear of any encumbrances (memorial stone etc.)
4. Transfer goes through the Finance / Business office of the Town of Somers not the committee. Transfer must be approved by the committee before completion.]

#### 7. New Business

A. To create list of job descriptions for the Cemetery Committee from a group of suggestions presented. The committee did not go the route of a sub-committee with a separate meeting as it was felt we could forge through the list in one evening. A draft list was created. Mr. Morgan will present specific wording for at least one item. The list will be presented at the March regular meeting. It is the intent to have this included in the revised cemetery booklet.

B. & C. were moved to the March meeting due to time restraints.

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

The next regular scheduled meeting is March 8, 2023 at 6:30 in the Town Hall lower level meeting room.

Adjournment at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Loftus (chair, interim secretary)