

Somers Cemetery

5.10.2023 meeting minutes

1. Call to order: 6:30

2. Members present: Pat Bachetti, Ann Lévesque, David Morgan, Patricia Loftus (chair). David McCaffrey - absent

3. Public Comment – None

4. Motion to approve minutes from March 8, 2023 regular meeting. Motion: Ann Levesque, 2nd David Morgan, passed 4/0

Motion to approve minutes from March 21, 2023 special meeting. Motion: Pat Bachetti, 2nd – Ann Levesque. Passed 4/0

5. Committee Reports:

a. Finance – 1. Brian Wissinger attended and introduced Danielle Urbon who will be attending the cemetery meetings from now on and representing the Finance Office. Welcome Danielle. 2. Kevin Nichols (Morgan – Stanley) had reported at the pension meeting that M-S wanted to shed all small accounts (Somers) however it was determined that if the Cemetery Endowment became an Irrevocable Trust they would continue to work with us. An Irrevocable Trust would mean that at no time could the Town of Somers decide to absorb cemetery monies into the general fund and use them for other purposes. Leaving the cemetery committee with little to no need to exist since funding would not be available. Thank you, Kevin Nichols.

b. Landscaping – John Guzie – not present

c. Sexton – Jeff Buckley – present, no report. The committee requested that the form sent from Buckley services to the town include veteran information if available. It is understood that some information may wind up staying with the funeral home if not specifically requested.

d. DPW – Todd Rolland – email report sent, a large number of trees were removed from the RT 190 length of the Old West Cemetery in early spring. 20 trees, multiple varieties were planted along the street. Chair's comment: Thank you DPW crew! The trees though small look wonderful. We are looking forward to seeing both growth and the variety of leaf color in the fall. The committee was read the list of the varieties sent by Todd.

e. American Legion – Paul Martinello representing. The flags for Memorial Day will be placed on Saturday 5.27 by the Legion. Flag Day is 6.14.2023 and a Wednesday. It will be celebrated on the Saturday before (6.10.2023). No further information on the ground level flag holders. They are still attempting to secure prices from foundries.

6. Old Business:

a. Buy Back Policy goes into effect 7.1.2023. Details will be on the town web page. Call the Finance office with questions if you are interested in selling back usable, unencumbered plots in Center Cemetery.

b. Progress report on securing a landscape architect to plot and pin the outer circle of Center Cemetery. David Morgan will be seeing the owner of the original company to determine if it is still a good fit and they are able to work with us. David has requested a map of Center from Brian with the original sections numbered, even those not yet pinned. Further report at the next regular meeting.

c. Status of the Ordinance to prohibit the scattering, leaving or burying of cremains on town property outside of cemetery regulations. (Since early December this has been discussed and bounced back and forth between the chair and the Bd of Selectmen. As of Tuesday, 5.16 the issue is back on the Board of Selectmen's agenda this week for the 6 PM meeting.)

d. Status of Job descriptions – Approved at the 3.21.23 special meeting. It was decided that there was no need to go further.

e. David Morgan will review the rules and regs and create a draft for July meeting. (If anyone on the committee had ideas send them to David.)

f. Comment / Complaint form is now online. Request to have an option to have hard copies at the Finance office and a print option and an address to send it to as some may need help if they do not own a computer. Request to see a copy in the Woodcrest newsletter. Brian or Danielle will do this.

New Business:

a. As a request from Ann Levesque, Brian Wissinger will check to see if the SPD portable LED sign could be used to advertise spring and fall cemetery clean ups.

b. A request from the chair to have all pricing and new information be placed on a Cemetery News page of the Town web page. (Plot pricing, Columbarium pricing and rules, foundation pricing). We need to be more of customer service agency and need to advertise more and better. Our own web page could cost us substantial monies so we will start with using the town page. Brian will upload the information.

c. Digital Management – David Morgan will set up information and the committee will look at vendors after the July meeting date.

d. We have a general list of what we are considering for fields in any new software but will wait to see what David Morgan comes up with that will be a good fit for the town.

Adjournment: 8:00 PM

Next meeting July 5, 2023