

## Somers Cemetery Minutes

July 12, 2023

1. Call to order: 6:30
2. Members present: David McCaffrey, Ann Levesque, David Morgan, Pat Loftus (chair). Guests: Danielle Urbon (finance)
3. Public Comment: None
4. Motion to approve minutes from May 10, 2023 Motion: 1/David Morgan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Levesque, passed 4/0
5. Committee Reports:
  - a. Finance: 1. More plots sold in Center Cemetery (See chart from Finance).
  2. Note fee of more than 500.00 – Question on approval for printing and marketing, advertising (committee not approved nor asked) and how it is being used. What will we see in exchange? 3. Requesting information for September meeting or earlier on the Morgan & Stanley irrevocable trust agreement.
  - b. Sexton – Not present due to emergency. Texted info on opinion of Sunday burials. Pricing to be discussed.
  - c. Landscaping: Not present
  - d. DPW: Not present, no info needed.
  - e. American Legion: Not present.
6. Old Business:
  - a. Concern form : Solution reports start at September meeting
  - b. Landscape Architect: 2 companies to be presented in September. Amount low enough so that bid is not needed per D. Morgan. David Morgan presented “cremation stones” as samples of what might be allowed in a scatter garden. Newest trend is a composting company. The committee is unsure if State of CT health regulations allows for this in a municipal cemetery at this time.
  - c. Rules packet – No report
  - d. Digital Management of Cemetery information – Lengthy discussion creating list of information we’d like on a digital file. Some information could be gleaned from sexton, funeral home, family, in addition to town records. Information would be split between town needs and publicly available. Privacy a consideration.
7. New Business
  - a. Concern forms presented by D. Urbon

1. Dogs off leash in Center Cemetery, owners not picking up after them. Sent anonymously – unable to respond directly. Consider new signs repeating the NO DOGS ALLOWED rule.

2. Request of buy-back of a plot. Vote to approve. 1/Pat, 2/David Morgan. Passed 4/0. Notify Brian for Bd. of Selectman approval to move forward pending paper work in order.

3. Request for Landscaping or Sexton to plant grass seed on specific grave site as it is bare. Approved, Danielle will call vendors.

4. Burial of cremains in New West in family plot. Sunday request due to family being from out of state. Approved by B. Wissinger. Committee chair was notified and approved due to time constraint.

b. Request to provide a specific section for our Jewish friends (through committee member Ann Lévesque) in Center Cemetery. Committee voted to reserve the land between the columbarium and the Lipton plots. 4/0. There is enough space presently to provide both single through family estate sized spaces. No specific lay out is presently available. The landscape architect will be requested to provide this.

c. Discussion on newly requested usable space within the outer ring to be offered to the landscape architect. Estate plots, addition of driveway(s) among ideas discussed. To be continued.

d. Requested use of SPD electric sign to advertise Fall & Spring clean-up.– tabled.

e. Report on Cemetery News page on town web site. Danielle will check on what if anything has been started and what the billing covers. See Finance Report.

f. None

Adjournment: 8:30

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

Next meeting is September 13, 2023

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia Loftus, interim secretary