

Somers Cemetery Committee Minutes
September 13, 2023



1. Call to order: 6:35
2. Members present: David McCaffrey, Ann Levesque, Pat Bachetti, Pat Loftus (chair) Not present: David Morgan
Guests: Jeff Buckley
3. Public comment: 1 present – no comment
4. Vote to approve July 12 minutes. Motion/Ann Levesque, 2nd Pat Bachetti
Passed 4/0
5. Committee reports:
 - a. Finance: See report filed with Finance Office.
(It does include removal of wasp's nest, not noted.)
 - b. Sexton: Sunday burials are fine with the sexton. They have been allowed on an emergency basis in the past. Pricing for Saturday with a % mark up to be set up with the finance office. Report pricing in November.
 - c. Landscaping: Representative not present. David McCaffrey reported that DPW will, or has taken care of a bush growing over a veteran's marker. Chair will contact DPW with suggestion of using decoy wasp nests available on line to be hung in trees. Consideration to be made of a bright tag to notify visitors of their use and to not remove.
 - d. DPW / Tree Warden: Not present. Mr. Rolland notified that a pin oak at the entrance to Center Cemetery appears to be under stress. Request to be made for consideration of millings to be used to even out the driveways of Old West. Also ask if water spigot in Old West is working.
 - e. American Legion: No representative present. No report.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Review of concern forms from July for resolution. No dogs allowed rule stands as written. Grass planted in area of request.
 - b. IT billing was for putting the concern forms on the town web site in an electronically fillable format or printable form off site. Reminder that



all purchases must be specifically approved by the committee prior to agreement.

- c. Update on Irrevocable Trust for Cemetery monies under Morgan Stanley. No movement by Finance Department or Morgan Stanley. Chair requests that contact information for MS representative be made available.
- d. D. Morgan not available for the meeting but does need information from the Finance Department on land boundaries for architect.
- e. Rules packet: A compilation of ideas from members if offered by them to D. Morgan. Unknown if any were sent. No discussion at meeting due to D. Morgan not being available. Revisit at November meeting.
- f. Vendor review for digital data storage: David McCaffrey, David Morgan and Danielle Urbon met to interview (zoom format?) multiple vendors on our quest to put all records into digital format. Some fields of information will be for town hall only and others open to the public. One vendor requested specific information which the finance department should be in possession of. No vendor recommendations brought to the committee at this month's meeting.

7. New Business:

- a. One concern form presented. A family was looking for information on putting their deeded plot into a trust. Information to come from the town clerk and shared with them. It does not seem to be committee business.
- b. Request from Ann Levesque to look at ways to better advertise our spring and fall clean up. 1. Use of social media seems to be the least expensive and broadest of coverage. 2. An ask of Kim Lefleur who is in charge of Somers Connects (a quarterly) to include us. 3. Town Hall web site would need an add to the front-page banner (see: Town Clerk for possibilities).
- c. Set Fall Clean-up dates: Motion by D. McCaffrey, 2nd/ Pat Bachetti passed 4/0 to use November 1-8 (Wed. to Wed) so that a weekend is

- included after fall decorations would be cold weathered out and before Veteran's Day (11/11) and Wreaths Across America (12/16).
- d. Report on Cemetery News page on the town web page. David McCaffrey reported that any postings on the web page have to go through the Town Clerk and that the program is an older version of Word Press. The chair will contact a Word Press exec to see if help is available and turn that information over to the Town Clerk.
 - e. Meeting calendar for 2024. A listing of dates for approval at the November meeting: Jan 10, Mar 13 (possible 3.12 primary?), May 8, July 10, Sept. 11 (Patriots Day), November 13 (Election Day is 11.5)

Addendum: David McCaffrey reported that privately placed military medallions in Old West and New West have gone missing. Medallions are plastic and have the look of metal therefore are a temptation to someone looking to cash in.

Chair's comment: A reminder to all who place items on graves, you do so at your own risk. Leaving something out that the public sees is a chance you take that it could be stolen. What may or may not be placed is listed on each large sign in each cemetery and listed in the Town of Somers approved rules available on the town web page under the Cemetery Committee tab.

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

Next meeting: November 8, 2023

Meeting adjourned: 7:45

Respectfully submitted

Patricia Loftus – interim secretary

