

Somers Cemetery Committee

July 29, 2015

Special Meeting*

4PM

1. Attendance: Carole Pyne (chair), George Warner, Casey Biega and Patricia Loftus

2. *7.29.2015 is designated a special meeting due to the regular July meeting not being held because of a lack of quorum. There cannot be a reading and vote for approval of minutes on previous meeting minutes (regular or special) at a special meeting. The 4PM time slot was assigned in order to accommodate the work schedule of several members.

3. Reports:

a. Bryan Wissinger: Presentation of excel sheet with a trial balance for the year. See Finance office for information.

There were additional comments from Mike Marinaccio (CFO) that we should be concentrating on the maintenance of Center Cemetery and less on the other three cemeteries that do not generate income. North, West, and New West should be cut less often. A second comment was made that we should consider not doing any restoration or repair on stones this year due to tight finances.

b. Investments: Report from Morgan / Stanley representatives Thomas Forma and Kevin Nichols. See packet of materials left with the Finance Office.

c. American Legion – David McCaffery.

1. An ash receptacle for properly retired flags has been installed at Center Cemetery.

2. Burial crew is removing flags at sites in order to get to interior plots but not replacing them or not placing them from where they had

been removed. Company needs to be reminded to mark the spots (blue paint has been suggested or use of wire post flags as markers).

3. Military medallions have been damaged and bent over by landscaping equipment. Total so far (62) is as follows: West- 38, Center – 22, North – 2. The landscaping company will be contacted and reminded to be more careful. The company may have also been supplied with additional medallions to replace as needed.

4. David is requesting loam in addition to sand in order to properly complete the resetting of the footstones.

d. Chairperson: See written report of 14 items. (See the electronic file from Chair).

Comment session initiated as the person who wrote to the Chair was present.

Future son-in-law of Mary Ann Squire stated family concern over the incomplete shrub removal (roots) and missing edging that the family had place at the graves stone. He was looking for completion of the work and an explanation of where the edging had gone. Carole explained that last summer the contractor who was in charge of maintenance for that specific cemetery had been fired due to poor quality of work and continual damage of stones. The new contractor had much to complete. Roots are cut to the ground but not ground out because of possible damage to the gravesite. Roots are then allowed to rot naturally.

The person making a request for clarification of the rules was directed to the town web site where all the rules are posted.

The future son in law also requested that families be contacted when maintenance is being done around any grave. This will not happen since some gravesites are owned by people who allowed others (in most cases other family members) to be buried in them. In some cases in the older cemeteries no records exist only maps with the name of the original owner.

4. Old business

a. Motion to approve grave digging contract be forwarded to the Bd of Selectmen for signing. Motion: Pat Loftus Second: George Warner
Vote: Unanimous.

b. Written comments (covered during Chairperson's report)

c. Other: None

5. New Business

a. Increase income – Mike Marinaccio (CFO) suggested a committee to investigate ways to increase income for the coverage of annual expenses to include a restructure of the business plan. Committee comprises of: Carole, Mike, George, and Casey.

Casey suggested several items to look at: raising rates, earth burials for cremations, and another look at a columbarium.

b. Proposed dates for 2016: 1.13, 4.13, 7.13, 10.12. Discussion and approval is scheduled for the October 2015 meeting.

c. Sign project quotes to be looked at again and discussion will continue in October.

6. Other business – none

Adjournment @ 5:10 PM

Minutes are not approved until voted on at the next regular meeting

Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Loftus

Committee secretary