

WILLIAMSTOWN CEMETERY COMMISSION

May 25, 2023 * * Minutes - Draft

Present: Matt Couillard CH, Susan Lyons, Daphne Herwig, Orvil Lasell

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Office.

Minutes: Minutes from April 27, 2023 were reviewed. Motion made by Daphne H to accept as written, 2nd by Orvil L. All approved and Motion passed.

Budget Status Report: Budget Status Report for 05/24/2023 was presented.

Warrants: Kirkyard Services/April Contract - \$4,250.00; Montpelier Stove Works - \$105.00. Total Warrants = \$4,355.00

Income: None to report.

New Business:

Matt C. The Budget Status report shows a balance of \$13,165.98, so that looks good.

Orvil L. So we will owe Joe for June. We are in good shape and can have more stones cleaned in the Village. Also, when we were putting the flags out we noticed that the West stone – down by the road the stone is sinking and will need a foundation. Discussion followed and we can ask Joe to give us a price on this.

There is also a stone on the top section off the flagpole road that needs to be looked at and fixed. We can check with Joe and get an estimate for fixing it or a new foundation.

Susan L. I e-mailed Joe about the meeting tonight and he responded that he would not be able to be here because of preparations for the Memorial Day Weekend. He did say that they would be mowing in town on Thursday and Friday.

Susan L. I contacted Dirty Rock to see if they would be interested in cleaning more stones for us and they quoted us the same price as last year - - \$9.375 per stone. We have had them do 80 at a time. The surrounds on a lot are either counted as one or two stones as in the past depending on the size of the lot.

Matt C. We left off at the top by the flagpole road – so going down the back side towards the Mill Pond. I will go and count the remaining stones in this area and have them do them all.

Susan L. I have a report from Steve Davoll on the mobile sandblast project in the West Hill Cemetery. He looked at the fencing and said that it would be a large job and he's going to pass on it for now. He gave me a couple of names to try – but did say that if we couldn't get anyone to let him know. He does extra work on the weekends and is not available right now. One of the names was for Adam Senecal - phone number (802) 430-4310. The other was for John Pelkey, has a business on Blackwell St. in Barre. Steve thought that Orvil would know John. I will get in touch with these two and ask for an estimate.

Susan L. There is a cremation going in the West Hill Cemetery and the family has a request regarding a stone for the family dog. Would it be possible to have this placed on the lot also? Discussion followed. Motion was made by Orvil L. and 2nd by Matt C. to not approve this. We don't want this to start a precedent. All agreed and Motion passed.

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Susan L. I also received another complaint/concern from Steve England regarding the woodchuck hole on their family lot in the Village Cemetery. We have tried in the past to deter and fill in this hole but have not been successful so far. He gave us a couple of suggestions – and we will be looking into these.

Susan L. Another complaint – or comment on the West Hill Cemetery. Julie Henderson is concerned that the workers are blowing the leaves up against the stone wall and it doesn't look very good. Would like to see if this can be taken care of.
Discussion followed on this. We looked at Joe's contract and cleaning up the cemeteries in the spring is to include the removal of winter debris, such as fallen tree branches, leaves, etc. Send an e-mail or talk to Joe and ask if this could be put on his list to take care of.

Another item to discuss. James MacAskill called to ask what the procedure was to have a Private Home Burial plot on his property on Erskine Road. His wife Barbara passed away in December 2022 and was cremated and it was her wish to be buried on their property. I have looked up the information on this and one of the things that needs to be done is that the Town Health Officer must make a visit to the property and a letter typed up and recorded in the town records. I would like one of the Cemetery members to be there also. The owner must also draw up a map with dimensions showing the location of the plot and this also must be recorded. The map does not need to be perfect. The State has certain requirements that will need to be taken into consideration also. We will also need the original cremation certificate and the burial transit permit form. I have sent this information to James and he responded that they do not have a date set yet.

Other/Old Business:

Mat C. Looking at the East Hill Cemetery again - - the tree branches that are hanging over the fence, I'm not sure whose land they are on. Would like to talk with the landowner before doing anything. (We can check the tax maps to figure this out.)

Matt C. Anything else? No - -.

Daphne H. I'll make the Motion to adjourn – 2nd by Orvil L. All approved.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: June 22, 2023
