

## Cemetery Trustee Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023, 1:00 pm

Protectworth Room

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Meeting called to order 1:00 pm by Trustee, Gardner Yenawine.

**Members present-** Gardner Yenawine, Bookkeeper, Lynette Johnson, Trustee, Jeremiah Crosby, Selectboard Representative, Tim Hayes, Road Agent, Daniel Hildebrand, John Chiarella, and Tamara Butcher, Town Administrator

**Agenda / Minutes** - Copies of the September agenda and August Minutes passed out to those present. Motion made by Gardner to accept both the July and August minutes. Seconded by Lynette.

**Modifications to Lot #191** - John Chiarella made a request regarding his family plot, #191, where his parents are buried. The plot land is uneven, and he would like to have the area leveled. He would also like to change out the headstone and add a granite bench. Tim Hayes will work to level the lot by adding more dirt and sloping the lot. Motion made by Gardner to allow John to add the bench and change the headstone. Seconded by Lynette. All in attendance agreed.

**Trustee Resignation** - Brandt Denniston, cemetery trustee, has resigned from his position following the passing of his wife last month. Our thanks to Brandt for his years of service on the cemetery trustee committee and as chairperson for this past year. His dedication to the role and attention to detail will be missed.

**Replacement Trustee** - Gardner made a motion to appoint Dan Hildebrand to the position of trustee until the March 2024 Town Meeting when a new election for the position can be held. Lynette seconded the motion. All present agreed.

**Chairperson** - Lynette made a motion to appoint Gardner Yenawine to the position of chairperson for the cemetery trustee committee. Dan seconded the motion. All present agreed.

**Bookkeeper** - Dan has agreed to take on the task of Bookkeeper with Gardner assisting with the transition. Lynette made a motion for Dan to be appointed Bookkeeper. Gardner seconded the motion. All present agreed.

**Pricing** - Discussion around lot sale and grave opening / closing prices continued from last month. Currently, lots can be purchased for full burial for one person (\$200), two person (\$300), four person (\$350), and eight person (\$550). The suggestion is to change the lot sale pricing to a per person lot price of \$200 for simplicity and to update pricing to meet current customary rates more closely. The discussion was tabled at this meeting, but we hope to put a motion forward at the October meeting. Road Agent, Tim Hayes, will prepare more accurate grave opening / closing pricing after considering cost of fuel and labor. The current opening / closing price is \$300 for a full burial and \$100 for a cremation. Tim will present his estimate of actual current costs at the October meeting so fair pricing opening / closing for full burial, cremation and green burial can be set.

**Corner Marker Placement** - Section and row layout needs to be identified and marked so that corner markers can be placed. Tim Hayes has been placing corner markers as burials occur. Group agreement that we need to arrange a date to meet as a group at Pleasant View Cemetery to mark out sections and rows and place corner markers.

**Funding** -Trust fund billing for gravestone repair will complicate payment for Kai Nalenz with Gravestone Services of New England. For this year, it was decided to not seek trust fund reimbursement as the amount would be negligible and will delay timely payment. Jeremiah Crosby mentioned the need to write up a warrant article for the next town meeting asking that funds collected from sale of lots and from grave opening / closing go into a revolving fund for cemetery use, including gravestone repair and maintenance.

**Cemetery Auxiliary** - Gardner brought up the idea of forming a cemetery auxiliary of volunteers from interested Springfield residents. All present agreed that this would be a great idea to launch.

**Site visits** -Lynette mentioned that we need do site visits to the five external cemeteries that the town maintains. These are Messer Hill Cemetery, Davis Cemetery, Dutchman Pond Cemetery, Barden Cemetery, and Fowlertown Cemetery. Tamara Butcher knows the location of these cemeteries. Plan is for Gardner, Lynette and Tamara to visit several of these cemeteries before the next meeting.

Lynette made a motion to end the meeting. Agreement by all. Meeting ended at 1:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lynette Johnson, trustee