

Essex Cemetery Commission

Public Meeting Minutes

1/9/2020 - 5:30 pm

Location: Essex Town Office, 2nd floor
Members present: Fran Kinghorn, Elaine Strunk, Susan Brown, Joan Janzen
Members missing: Marcus Wilson
Others present: Jenny Willingham

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Meeting called to order 5:36 PM.

1. Public comments – none
2. Approval of November 2019 meeting minutes – November meeting minutes will be edited to show there was no December meeting. Sue then made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes as edited. Elaine seconded. Approved by all.
3. Common Burial Ground – The Town has received the grant money from the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV). There is \$855.25 remaining. Fran will write a letter to the PTV and request permission to use the remaining money towards engraving some of the stones that were in such poor condition they could not be restored. Sue and Fran will continue on with the ‘white flag’ project in the spring.

Jenny reported that Eric Bianchi made a financial donation towards any future restoration work needed in the cemeteries.

A hard copy of the Rules and Regulations Marcus emailed the members in November was handed out. All members will read and come to the next meeting with comments.

4. Mountain View Cemetery – Fran reviewed the lot purchases and burials for the 2019 season.

Elaine is working on finding contact information for burials where plant growth is out of hand. There was a short discussion about changing the Rules and Regulations to include wording to limit the size of plants allowed at gravesites. All agreed to postpone this until the end of the 2020 season.

Charlie Cole was not able to attend this meeting, however, he hopes to be at the February meeting to give us feedback on how this season went, and to introduce us to someone interested in the position as he will not be able to continue on as sexton.

Sue will look into the cost of the ID discs other towns use to mark gravesites and report at the next meeting.

5. Budget request for FY 21- The Select Board approved a \$5000 operating budget for FY21 and a \$2500 stipend for the sexton. There was a discussion about how the rest of this year’s operating funds can best be spent. The group also started a list of expenditures for a 5-year plan. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

6. Other –

- a. Memorial Day flags – Elaine will do an inventory. Fran will write a letter to let Holy Family and Fairview know we won't be able to purchase flags for them this year.
- b. Jenny provided a list of Sexton Responsibilities. Fran will compare this to the 'job description' written up last spring. Jenny suggested a similar one be written for Grave Diggers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01. Next meeting 2/13/2020.