

Essex Cemetery Commission
Public Meeting Minutes
9/14/20 - 11:00 AM

Location: Sand Hill Park Pavilion

Members Present: Fran Kinghorn, Elaine Strunk, Sue Brown

Members absent: Joan Janzen

Meeting called to order 11:07 AM.

1. Public comments - none
2. Approval of July 2020 meeting minutes: Elaine made a motion to approve minutes as written. Sue seconded. All Approved.
3. MVC update
 - Volunteer has done some trimming, but there is more to do. Fran, Elaine and Sue will go over next week to finish up.
 - Weeds at columbarium apparently were not sprayed by Town this summer. Sue will go over and spray them with a vinegar solution.
 - Two large trees were removed by the town.
 - There have been five burials(mostly cremations) since last meeting of whom one was a veteran.
4. Elaine reported that due to the COVID, she has been unable to get to the vault to research the names regarding the care of graves in need of attention. CC members decided under the circumstances to give Bob the go-ahead to trim back those large trees which will greatly improve the appearance of the graves.
6. Members unanimously agreed that Bob is doing a great job!!
7. Toby marked and handled the grave arrangements for a burial that occurred while Bob was on vacation, which was much appreciated.
8. CC members discussed and approved the request from the family of Matthew Harding (buried in the Sterling section) to install a bench. There is plenty of room in the family plot as well as precedent.
9. COMMON BURIAL GROUND update:
 - Fran reported that the three sinkholes next to adjoining building had been repaired though there is still no gutter on the building so this problem may well reoccur.
 - The tenant in that building is moving out and will take his outside 'stuff' when he goes.
 - Sue will work with Fran on coordinating the graves that need engraving with the wording in the cemetery records. Plan to have completed this project by winter.
10. Budget shows that \$302 was spent for a July-August with \$280 to John Leo with no explanation. Fran will check with Jennie on this.
11. Fran will also contact Jennie to see about the Town removing the two dying trees in front of the MVC storage building.
12. Veterans graves: Elaine is working on a data base for the veterans in the two cemeteries and and finding many discrepancies.
 - Fran will ask Bob NOT to remove the flags this fall so they can be more easily replaced next spring.
 - Elaine will respond to and decline the Girl Scout's offer to put up flags for Veteran's Day. (The flags

were put up for Memorial Day and are in place.)

13. Fran announced that she is resigning as Chair of the CC as of Dec. 1, but (to our great relief) will stay on as a member for the next year as a transition.

The next meeting will be Mon., October 5, 2020, 4 PM – location TBA.

Meeting adjourned 12:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Brown