

Town of Springfield – Cemetery Commissioners  
Minutes

Selectmen's Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor  
Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Commissioners present: Beth Gray, Cathryn Feickert, Scott Page and Barbara A. Courchesne, Ex-Officio.

Call to Order: 5:05 p.m.

Additions to Agenda: Cathryn attended the Vermont Old Cemetery Association presentation on restoring stones. The next meeting is in May in Vergens. Cathryn provided some information on cleaning stones that we can put on the website for family members to use on their respective stones. She will reach out to Tom Giffin, President of VOCA to see if he would consider work in Summer Hill and what is involved in getting assistance such as grants and classes on how to preserve stones.

Cathryn will reach out to Joe Verdine of Wreaths Across America regarding the possibility of doing one wreath in Veteran's Park in honor of all Veterans rather than a wreath on every Veteran grave.

Approval of Minutes: Beth Gray motioned and Cathryn Feickert seconded to approve Minutes of September 7, 2022. All in favor.

Fall Cleanup: Chair Scott reported that some clean up in Pine Grove has taken place and looks good. Steve is by himself this week and Eugene will be by himself in November. Steve and Don have been discussing cutting, either this fall or in the spring, some pine trees in Oakland that are in rough shape. They are also considering installing a swinging gate for the winter to eliminate cars driving through the snow onto the lawn on either side of the tomb during snowfall.

Lord Lot in Pine Grove: The Commissioners had all received a copy of Ms. Janice Prichard's summary of events in the Lord/Clark/Spicer lot in Pine Grove regarding a bench encroachment and movement of corner stones. In Lot 10 the Lords own Place 1,2,3; Clarks own Place 4&5; Spicers own Place 6. Sometime between 2013 and 2018 a 48" monument bench was installed on Place #4 and it overhangs Lord Place #3 additionally, the Lord and Clark cornerstones were moved to accommodate the bench. A 48" bench is too large to be placed on a single 40" grave. Aaron of Tribute Artistry reviewed a picture of the bench and confirmed that they were not the installer. A member of the Spicer family confirmed that the bench was installed by Austin Memorials, who is out of business. The Clarks and the Spicers are related to each other. Ms. Janice Prichard, daughter, of Esther Lord is trying to rectify the situation. Discussion ensued regarding the details of the situation. It was decided that as long as Ms. Prichard could secure the authorization of the Clark's, who own Place 4, and the Spicers, who installed the bench, an authorized monument dealer could be hired, at the expense of the owners, to center the bench over Clark Places 4&5 and reposition cornerstones.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: At 5:58 p.m. it was motioned and seconded to adjourn. All in favor.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara A. Courchesne*

Barbara A. Courchesne, Cemetery Commissioner, Ex-Officio