

Town of Springfield – Cemetery Commissioners

Minutes

Selectmen's Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

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

Meeting called to order: Called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Commissioner Feickert

Additions to the Agenda: Oakland Cemetery vehicle damage to stones and grounds on June 6, 2023 was added to the agenda. Police report is available regarding incident involving a stolen vehicle that was used to run over and damage headstones/grave markers in Oakland Cemetery; Dylan Levesque was apprehended. It has been determined that the damage to markers was in Sections B and C. The stones are from the 1900s. There are a few stones moved off their foundations and several are chipped on the corners, tire marks have torn up the ground and at least one headstone with an angel was completely destroyed. Assessment of damage and repair costs is underway. The Victim's Advocate for the Windsor County State's Attorney's Office has reached out and provided information for accessing funds, for expenses not covered by insurance, through the Victims Compensation Fund and for filing a Victim's Impact Statement for affected families seeking restitution. This information will be placed on the town's website; possibility of Facebook and newsprint publication was discussed. According to VLCT the town's insurance covers the tomb and the shed, not privately owned headstones or markers. If a person of contact for the family of a damaged stone can be determined, a notice will be sent with the Victims Compensation Fund information.

Approve Minutes of May 3, 2023: Beth Gray motioned and Cathryn Feickert seconded to accept minutes of May 3, 2023 as presented; all voted in favor.

Pine Trees in Oakland: Update not available

Summer Hill Stone Repair & Restoration: Barbara will check with Trustees of Public funds to see if there is any principal appreciation/unearned income that has accumulated within the Cemetery Fund that can be accessed for some stone repair in the Summer Hill Cemetery. Commissioner Feickert encountered someone who does stone repair and is connected with VOCA. 18 VSA 5363(a) allows for repair of stones. Another option is for someone to establish and operate a non-profit for the benefit of the cemetery, similar to Friends of the Library. Hugh Putnam reminded that Simon Stevens resting in Summer Hill is one Springfield's most prominent initial settlers in 1762 whose marker, was fixed by DAR in the 1900s, is now laying on the ground and should be one of the first repaired as well as the cleaning of Governor Hartness's stone.

Cathryn Report from VOCA Meeting: Commissioner Feickert attended the VOCA meeting on May and although VOCA has already scheduled this year's restoration projects, she believes someone may be able to give instruction on some restoration techniques. There is a grant application and review process for next fall for matching \$750.00 funds, if awarded.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Gray left the meeting at 5:45 p.m. and the meeting adjourned at 5:55p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 2 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Courchesne

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Cemetery Commissioner, Ex-Officio