

Town of Springfield – Cemetery Commissioners
Minutes
Selectboard Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor
Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Commissioners present: Ronald Griffin, Scott Page, Judy Stern, Cathryn Feickert and Barbara A. Courchesne, Ex-Officio.

Meeting called to order: 5:15 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Approve Minutes of October 2, 2024: Scott moved to accept Minutes of October 2, 2024; Cathryn seconded; All voted in favor.

Spring Cemetery Update and Review: Scott met with Sexton Zach and discussed the start of Spring burials beginning on April 11 & 12, the cemeteries are drying out well and the fall clean up made the Spring clean up minimal, especially with the removal of the trees in Oakland. There will be some top soil going on the Batchelder lot in Pine Grove. The poles and blocks define a road in Pine Grove that is either going to remain grass for ingress/egress or will be improved with shurpac and gravel. Ben Moffit and Jeff Strong are working on updating cemetery equipment that has been used beyond its life expectancy and has no trade-in value. There is discussion of a plan to either lease or finance something new every 2/3 years. Zach has been conscientious with Spring maintenance. The town owns a skid box which will be used in Summer Hill by the tool shed this year before monument work. Ron questioned the use of non-commercial stones in the cemetery to which Scott responded that the ordinance must be followed regarding foundations and proper installation. There is not yet an update on the fence company replacing the Oakland fence. Scott stated that Zach may be allocated an assistant that is familiar with mowing, trimming and equipment so that someone is always keeping up on cemetery maintenance even if the sexton is called away or busy with a burial. Ron reported that all the cemeteries look to be in good condition, except he was unable to visit Day cemetery. Its ok to park near the brown house at the Parker Hill cemetery.

VOCA project Summer Hill: Cathryn reported that the next meeting of VOCA is in Vergennes on May 3rd and she plans to attend. We might be able to ask for stone repair assistance next year. For now the commissions will hold a couple of stone cleaning events in Summer Hill. Kelley Stettner has offered to be involved in that project. The high school civic volunteer coordinator has not responded.

Commissioners will encourage public works to move forward with the posting of sections within each cemetery. Last year Donny was going to have markers made like street signs and placed within the cemeteries. Ron mentioned that copying the style in the St. Mary's section would provide a uniform look. Scott shared with Zach the online mapping system used in Ludlow which is a goal in Springfield. Scott stated that if the materials piles in section J of Oakland could be relocated and bunkered elsewhere, then that area could be surveyed and possibly extend the life of Oakland cemetery by 2 years. Additionally, there may be space near the flagpole for an urn garden.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: Motion was made, seconded and voted in favor to adjourn at 5:56 p.m. Next meeting will be May 7, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Courchesne

Barbara A. Courchesne
Cemetery Commissioner, Ex-Officio