

Town of Springfield – Cemetery Commissioners - Minutes
Selectboard Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor
Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Commissioners present: Ronald Griffin, Scott Page, Beth Gray, Cathryn Feickert, Judith Stern, Barbara A. Courchesne, Ex-Officio.

Meeting called to order: 5:02 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda: Ron discussed the possibility of a columbarium being constructed in the Memorial Park as a solution to cremation space. Ron also discussed an urn garden that he had seen in another cemetery. The urn garden was a raised bed where ashes were spread (not buried) and a name plate marker was left to remain in the garden. Ron presented this idea as a solution to removing the underlying water pipes the space in Summer Hill Cemetery where the fountain used to be and still being able to efficiently use the space. A statue could be placed on the fountain's pedestal to avoid removing that structure. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of an urn garden with granite brick markers, being less expensive than bronze markers. Discussion ensued regarding duplicating the cemetery markings as done in the St. Mary's Cemetery. Scott will check with Bill Baptie regarding St. Mary's process and expense. The fence between St. Mary's and Oakland Section I has been fixed.

Approve Minutes of May 7, 2025: Beth motioned, and Scott seconded to approve the May 7, 2025 minutes. All voted in favor.

Spring Cemetery Update and Review: Beth mentioned that there is a tree located on the former Bartley property that has fallen into Pine Grove and damaged the town's fence. Scott will give Ben a heads up prior to the Commission sending a letter to the owner. The faucet is leaking in Pine Grove. The sexton has been notified of another tree, on the town's property, is damaged and needs to be cut down in Pine Grove. There have been complaints regarding the lack of mowing and trimming in the cemeteries. The Commissioners acknowledged that it has been a very rainy/wet May and mowing has been a challenge. Oakland is particularly difficult with its sandy terrain and lack of grass. For example, St. Mary's has fertilized, treated and aerated there area for years and it still lacks results.

VOCA update & project Summer Hill: Beth and Cathryn attended the Westminster VOCA event. Westminster's coordinator was pleased with their assistance and work cleaning stones and has offered to attend Springfield's event in July. Springfield's stone cleaning event will be held Sunday, July 27th from 8-12. Event flyer will be ready at the end of June for circulation. It will be a bonus if VOCA can attend.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: Motion was made, seconded and voted in favor to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. Next meeting will be July 2, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Courchesne
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