

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

Commissioners present: Ronald Griffin, Scott Page, Cathryn Feickert, Judith Stern

1 - Meeting called to order: 5:10 p.m.

2 – No additions to agenda

3 – Approve minutes: Ron (1); Judith Stern (2); passed

4 – Cemetery Update & Review: leaky faucet (Pine Grove) & trees. Scott notified DPW and hopes it will be fixed soon. Scott also has several trees that he is monitoring (Pines or Hemlock); there is a concern if they continue to rot that they could possibly damage marble markers.

Mowing: Scott is uncertain as to the status of mowing now that the rain has stopped and clear weather is here.

-Ron heard/received a positive comment regarding the status of the cemeteries. Scott noted that it takes time for a new sexton to acclimate/find their way.

-Ron mentioned the condition of a tree, near the Parker Hill Cemetery. Scott stated that it is a confusing situation as it is the church's property (Unitarian Universalist); Davis Memorial has never conducted a service in that cemetery, as the church handles it itself. Ron offered to give the church a call to clarify the situation. Cathryn suggested rather than calling, that Ron stop by prior to a service to find a point of contact.

-There was a discussion regarding how in the past churches typically cared for cemeteries. Cathryn mentioned that Springfield's churches do not have graveyards adjacent, and Scott and Ron mentioned that local churches tended to buy plots for their congregations. Judy stated that no local churches really have the additional property to have graveyards; Scott pointed out that the churches are usually the footprint of the property.

Scott said that there are no serious concerns with the cemeteries at this time.

5 - VOCA – Scott stated that Barbara had created and sent out the flyers for the cemetery clean-up session. Cathryn stated that she had met points of contact at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce mixer. She said she learned of and met with the CSB Volunteer Representative and an employee who is very interested in assisting. Cathryn will forward the flyer to those individuals, and to the VFW and the Elks. There was discussion by Scott and Judith about asking church youth groups, boy/girl scouts, and others.

-Scott also said that he had talked to Barbara about a toppled stone at Summer Hill Cemetery. It is a very visible stone. He stated that that is one that could be up righted at the session.

Scott and Judith discussed the towns that have taken the lead and saved money for several years and hired someone to refurbish their cemeteries.

-There was a discussion of the cemeteries moved/created because of the floodplain and dam construction.

-The day of the gravestone cleaning session was questioned as Sundays are difficult for Judith (church). We also discussed the hope that more people will become interested in helping. Cathryn stated that she feels that consistency will be helpful. The school was mentioned as a source of help.

Ron stated that a Veteran had removed the unserviceable flag in Oakland cemetery, Ron said that he replaced it. Judith asked if the flagpole was lit in the evening. Ron stated that it is not. There was discussion regarding lighting the flagpole, whether it is electric or solar-powered. Ron shared about his visit to Teddy Roosevelt's grave. Scott discussed the enormity of cemeteries near New York City.

6 – Public Comment: None

7 – Adjournment: Ron made a motion to adjourn at 5:42 p.m., Judith seconded.

v/r

Cathryn Feickert