

Town of Springfield – Cemetery Commissioners
Minutes
Selectmen’s Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor
Wednesday, April 3, 2024

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

Meeting called to order: 5:20 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda: None

Approve Minutes of October 24, 2023 & November 1, 2023: Beth motioned to accept both sets of Minutes as presented; seconded by Chair Page; all voted in favor.

Spring Cemetery Update & Review: Chair Page reported that since we still have snow there isn’t much to report. Former Sexton Steve and new Sexton Isaiah worked together to clean up Pine Grove tree damage prior to today’s snow. Chair Page will work with Isaiah while he gets accustomed to marking out of graves, dealing with burials directly with the public and other funeral homes. Sexton Isaiah has already marked out a few graves on his own and doesn’t know if he will have help due to shorthandedness of Public Works. Public Works struggled last year with mowing and trimming in the cemeteries. Ron mentioned that there is a need for a pull off at the Parker Hill cemetery; there is no available parking. Scott will discuss with Operations Supervisor, Don Turner, the need for a culvert and fill. Ron will keep an eye on Veteran’s Memorial Park and will help Isaiah. Beth offered to assist with mowing on her days off from working at the Recycling Center. Chair Page mentioned that the subbing out of cemetery work never goes well and there are surrounding towns that have struggled with and experienced last-minute cancellations, subpar work and subbing expenses. Beth suggested that each commissioner view a cemetery and report back at next meeting; she will view Pine Grove. Scott mentioned that people who live near town cemeteries have been helpful in alerting either himself or Public Works when there is damage or something happens.

Removal of Pine Trees in Oakland: Barbara read Operations Supervisor, Donny Turner’s, email “I went up to Gurney’s pit with Crown Point Excavation to stage the landing for this project. I have also had Gurney brothers up there to approve of this and we are all set on coming in from the back side of the cemetery. I just talked to Shawn and we are going to wait for this snow storm to pass before we start up there. I would safely say within the next two weeks this project will be under way.”

Trust Fund Disbursement: It is expected that by the next commissioner meeting the trees in Oakland will have been removed and there will be an invoice available so that the commissioners can give direction for the agreed disbursement to the Trustees of Public Funds.

VOCA project Summer Hill: Chair Page will donate shurpac, however, due to burial schedules he may not be available. Cathryn will confirm the project with VOCA and then inform the commissioners of the date VOCA has chosen to work in Summer Hill; it’s believed the date will be July 27th. Once a firm date is set the commissioners will start on event publication and collecting the necessary supplies requested by VOCA. Barbara will follow up with VOCA regarding the grant that was submitted last fall. Ron questioned what would happen to the fountain space in Summer Hill. Chair Page stated that the space is best used for burials, however, there will be water lines to remediate. Pleasant Valley Cemetery on Boedtger Road will have a full burial this year, which is difficult due to

the rockiness of that cemetery. Despite its appearance the center section of that cemetery is actually an area of unmarked graves from early settlers and is not available.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m. by motion of Chair Page; seconded by Ron; all in favor. Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Courchesne

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Cemetery Commissioner, Ex-Officio