

Town of Springfield – Cemetery Commissioners  
Minutes  
Selectboard Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor  
Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Commissioners present: Ronald Griffin, Scott Page, Beth Gray, Cathryn Feickert, Barbara A. Courchesne, Ex-Officio and Jade Huntley, Cemetery Sexton.

Meeting called to order: 5:01 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Approve Minutes of April 2, 2025: Ron moved to approve regular and organizational minutes of April 2, 2025; Cathryn seconded; All voted in favor.

Spring Cemetery Update and Review: Chair Scott reported that Jade Huntley has replaced Zach as Cemetery Sexton. This is a time of year when a lot is on the plate of the cemetery sexton. The rainy weather has been a challenge for mowing, however, there is a new John Deere mower arriving soon. Jade reported that the new mower is better suited for the cemetery maintenance with a 60” belly mower deck and the bucket will be efficient with burials. The upgrade of other mowers is being investigated and considered. When necessary, Jade has an assistant assigned to him. It will soon be all hands-on deck pre-Memorial Day clean up. Stone repairs over the years have fallen behind due to lack of help. The last couple of years it was Donny’s plan to tackle Summer Hill and Pine Grove with marking sections. Jade will investigate the cost of permanent markers, like what St. Mary’s is using but with longer lasting materials. Scott and Jade reported that the Oakland/St. Mary’s fence repairs are being worked on with Springfield Fence Company. Jade will investigate the missing stone in the back of Section C. Ron questioned how many grave sites can be carved out in the newly exposed back area. The access road to Boedtker cemetery at the bottom needs to be smoothed out and so does Day cemetery. Parker Hill has a dead tree in the middle, which the UU church may wish to remove. The latch is broken on the Woodbury Road gate. Jade is suggesting this is an opportunity for a new piece of fence that allows for equipment to get in/out. Putnam cemetery has new stones. Discussion ensued regarding the fountain at Summer Hill and whether to recommend removal of pipes, concrete, etc. for a few burials/cremations in the sold-out cemetery or if too costly, to plant flowers and a bench; Jade will set up an inspection.

VOCA project Summer Hill: Cathryn attended the VOCA May meeting and learned that there are still dates available for VOCA and the plan is for her to secure a Saturday or Sunday in July for Springfield and advertise for support from the community to help clean and repair stones in the Summer Hill Cemetery under the guidance of VOCA. VOCA will not attend without a strong commitment from the community to work with them when they are in Summer Hill. We know from last year that Kelly Stettner will assist with rounding up community volunteers. VOCA suggested at their meeting that cemeteries post “no perennial planting” signs. It is now against the law to power wash the stone of a veteran. The town’s website will be updated in the cemetery section with this posting. Cathryn will attend the VOCA community cemetery workday at the Old Westminster Cemetery on Route 5 being held from 8-12am on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Jade reported that D2 has arrived and is stored with

the cleaning kits in Summer Hill. Beth will work on getting the kits replenished and ready for public use.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: Motion was made, seconded and voted in favor to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. Next meeting will be June 4, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara A. Courchesne*

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Cemetery Commissioner, Ex-Officio