

Minutes from 9/30/20 Cemetery Commission meeting
6:00 PM
Remote Access Meeting with Zoom
(Under Emergency Order for Pandemic)

Approved at the October 21, 2020 meeting.

Members present: Walter Tibbetts (WT), Janice Stone (JS).

1. Review and approve minutes of the September 9, 2020 meeting.
WT and JS agreed on a few corrections to the minutes under item 3, including Swift River Valley Historical Society. WT then made the motion, seconded by JS, to approve the minutes as written, except changes in item 3, as noted. Both voted in favor.
2. Update on gravestone repair project. TaMara Conde (TC) from Historic Gravestone Services has finished the work on the gravestone repairs and cleaning at West Cemetery. She was here today getting photos for her summary report. She added some loam and seed to disturbed areas around the repairs. WT mentioned that members of the Spear family visited the cemetery recently and were pleased with the work done on the Spear monuments. One of the family is planning to return to Shutesbury in two years and would like to help with the cemetery at that time. JS also took photos of all the completed repair work. Looks great.
3. Gravestone workshop. WT has set up the Gravestone Repair Workshop for Volunteers for 9AM Saturday October 3rd. The date was changed so more people could attend, including some of the cemetery staff. TC suggested doing a slideshow program on cemeteries through the library next Spring, followed by another work day. This might get more people interested. JS mentioned a cemetery in Montague that contacted families with photos of gravestones cleaned and not cleaned, asking for small donations to help continue the work. Maybe getting photos of the repair work out to the community will garner some support for more.
WT mentioned part of the workshop on 10/3 will include reinstalling the gravestone for the infant Nathan Wheeler, whose stone was found in a house on the Cape. New owners did some research, contacted Swift River Valley Historical Society, who did more research and tracked it back to original location in the West Cemetery. His parents' stones are located on the hill in the older section in front. There is a space next to them where it probably was and will be returned to. So far there are 8 people confirmed for the workshop, but there could be more. Dot is coming from Swift River VHS. She did the research which traced Nathan Wheeler back to Shutesbury. JS will email the Historical Commission members, Mary Jo Maffei and Leslie Luchonock, in case they are interested in attending.

4. Membership Status. WT and JS have not yet found anyone interested in serving on the Cemetery Commission. JS will put something into the next Town newsletter. Maybe someone from the workshop will be interested? JS will also put it on Next Door Shutesbury. JS said she can stay on for 6 months, until February, but needs to write the Selectboard for permission.
5. Updates. The Commission needs to decide how to move forward adjusting survey conditions from the plan and where the plots are on the ground. WT will invite the surveyor Larry Holmberg to the next meeting. Probably need to stake out the road on the ground according to the survey and reestablish the lines perpendicular to the roads. Most lots are 18'x18'. WT will try to get signs made as well. JS suggested they turn in another request to the CPC to continue the gravestone repairs and cleanings, a little bit each year. She will find the CPC application & deadlines.
6. Set date for next meeting. WT and JS agreed on Wednesday October 14 at 6PM.
7. Adjournment at 6:45 PM. JS made the motion, seconded by WT. All in favor.

Submitted by

Janice Stone

Cemetery Commission secretary