

Minutes from 12/09/20 Cemetery Commission meeting
6:00 PM
Remote Access Meeting with Zoom
(Under Emergency Order for Pandemic)

Final approved at the January 13, 2021 meeting.

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

Visitor present: Mary Jo Maffei (MM)

1. Review and approve minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting. WT made the motion, seconded by JS, to approve the minutes as written. Both voted in favor.
2. Application for CPA grant for additional restoration work. WT and JS discussed what should go into a plan for more restoration work. First priorities are for dangerous stones (which could fall on someone), then by size and condition. Suzan Young has a list of stones she has seen that need work. She has been resetting a good number of smaller head and footstones in the older section in front of West Cemetery. WT had asked CPC which was better, to start smaller (\$5,000-10,000 request) or larger? Larger might be better for long term planning. Should the Commission put a request in for money to conduct an assessment for the whole cemetery, or the other cemeteries? Then we would have a good list to work from for years.
There was also discussion about the final billing for TaMara Conde's work on the *gravestone restoration project* at West Cemetery. The work is done. WT and JS figured out how much of the SHRAB grant should be put towards the final payment (\$1215). Some has to remain since the painting of the War Memorial has not been done. JS will check with the grantor, to see if the time period can be extended because of the pandemic, or whether to return the money planned for that work. JS has been counting up the hours of volunteer labor to use for the match.
3. Cemetery surveying work. Mr. Holmberg apparently was not able to get out to the West Cemetery to install the rods to mark the edge of roads in the back portion. Therefore, WT and JS can't do the remapping of plots based on those lines. Work will have to wait until the surveyor gets out there and installs the rods as shown on the plan. WT will check in with him to make sure it gets done in the spring.
4. Question about Green Burial section. WT explained a request from a family which wants to purchase some lots together in West Cemetery. An infant relative was buried in the cemetery about 20 years ago. The family wants the child's casket/concrete vault to be moved to be next to theirs, but they are interested in the Green burial section, which the child's vault would technically not qualify for. Would it be possible to make an exception, so they could move the infant to be

with them? There is no plot in the traditional section available next to the Green Burial section. They could move the infant vault to a place in the Green Burial section plot that is only a few feet from the boundary that divides the Green from the traditional section. Discussion continued and all agreed to a compassionate solution. WT made a motion to allow the family to relocate the infant into a section of plot 261 (or 277, or 292), as long as it is on the first lot adjacent to the traditional burial section, with the family responsible for the costs of the moving and permits. The infant vault must be adjacent to the traditional section. JS seconded, and both voted in favor.

5. Possible new member. WT told JS that he has found someone who might be interested in serving on the Cemetery Commission. Steve Sullivan, who works for the Highway Dept and is on several committees in town. WT will ask him again.
6. Signs. WT has not had a chance to get this done yet. JS offered to work on it instead. Order 3 new signs (one to replace the existing one at West). JS should try Sunraise Printing or Hadley Signs.
7. Items not anticipated 48 hours prior to meeting. WT mentioned that while looking at locations of available plots with the family mentioned above, he noticed that a family next to the Green Burial section (262) put a large natural stone on the wrong plot. It is large and probably weighs 400-500 lbs. It is actually on plot 261, in the green burial section. WT will contact them and make them move it. People need to check with WT first, to avoid problems like this.
JS mentioned it would be nice to put a simple sign (maybe of wood?) in the Natural Section, so people know where it is if they are looking around.
8. Set date for next meeting. WT and JS agreed on Wednesday January 13 at 6 PM.
9. Adjournment at 7 PM. JS made the motion, seconded by WT. All in favor.

Submitted by

Janice Stone

Cemetery Commission secretary