

**Minutes from 6/16/21 Cemetery Commission meeting  
6:00 PM**

**Remote Access Meeting with Zoom  
(Under Emergency Order for Pandemic)**

**Approved at meeting of 8/18/21**

Members present: Walter Tibbetts (WT), Susan Millinger (SM), Steve Sullivan (SS).  
Dina Stander (DS) and Leslie Bracebridge, guests.

Meeting called to order at 6:10.

1. Review and Approval of minutes of May 19 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes of 5/19/21 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote.
2. Contents of the Cemetery Website. Current Contents: SM has provided to Gail Fleischaker, chair of the Web Communications Committee, some texts and documents which include photos (including cemetery descriptions, current regulations and pricing.) Much of this material has since been posted on the website. Commission members have viewed the work so far done and consider it a good start.  

The missing title page of the Gravestone Restoration Project report has been discovered and sent to Fleischaker; the Annual Report for FY 2020 has been sent in and posted.

Standar will be taking over the website when she joins the Commission. SM and DS plan to meet to talk about the transfer of website work.
3. Cemetery regulations. SM has volunteered to look over the regulations of traditional burials that Janice Stone, the previous secretary, had collected from local cemeteries.  

DS asked why Shutesbury only allows green burials in West. WT told us that the Board of Health has regulations about home cemeteries. The Commission thought it best to try green burials in one of the town cemeteries first, to see how it works. Whether to permit it elsewhere can be reconsidered in the future.
4. Cemetery regulations: cemetery signage. A sign for West Cemetery has been purchased from Amherst Copy and Designwork; it is ready for pickup by WT.
5. Surveying of West Cemetery: Update. WT has called the surveyor about the surveying begun on the first road which was not done correctly. The surveyor has not yet returned the call except to let WT know he realizes he owes WT a call.
6. Maintenance of equipment. WT purchased a few more needed supplies, including a brake cable needed to replace a broken one on the small mower. Purchasing parts poses a problem. Ordering online at Partstree.com is faster, and more Husqvarna parts are available there, but there is no opportunity to buy for the town without paying tax, as one can do locally at Devon Lane. WT has ordered about \$280 in parts from Devon Lane.

7. Yearend Budget. Should be about \$200 remaining of this year's funding. WT plans to buy supplies for stone cleaning at Home Depot; he will pick up string which the groundskeepers need for the string trimmer.
8. Gravestone Cleaning Workshop. DS volunteered to contact TaMara Conde about her schedule. Ideally, there would initially be a Library-sponsored talk to get people's attention and stimulate interest. Either DS or SM will be contacting the Library Director, once we know what Conde's schedule is like, to see if she would be willing to sponsor a weeknight event. The workshop, for about 15 people, would be aimed at and give preference to local people. It would be a weekend daytime event.

WT tells DS the fascinating story of the child's headstone recently found on the Cape, which belonged in West. It was put in storage until the workshop, when it was cleaned and set on a new base which Conde had made. Leslie Bracebridge reminded all that there is an article about the find in the Winter 2020-21 issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*.

A brief discussion of the need to apply for a grant for further gravestone restoration projects. In previous discussion, the Commission determined that a request for a smaller project involves an easier bid process. Given that Conde is local and did an excellent job with the first project, the Commission would prefer to use her services again. Applications are due by the end of November for a CPA grant.

9. Unanticipated items. None.
10. Date for next meeting: Wednesday, July 21 at 6 p.m.
11. Adjournment at 7:04 p.m. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Submitted by  
*Susan Millinger*  
Cemetery Commission secretary

