

## **Minutes of 6/15/22 Cemetery Commission**

**6:00 PM**

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

**Approved 7.19.22 Meeting**

Members present: Walter Tibbetts (WT), Susan Millinger (SM). Guests: Groundskeepers Mike Browsey and Suzan Young. Meeting called to order at 6:02.

1. Minutes of the April 25 meeting: Motion to accept the Minutes of April 25 as presented was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote. Note: there was no meeting in May.
2. Review of Volunteer Spring clean-up day:
  - a. The turnout was small (four people), perhaps in part because it was a hot day.
  - b. Suggestions for improving turnout:
    1. hold it after Town Meeting when it can be announced there
    2. have a simple, eye-catching 8 ½ by 11 poster
    3. hold two clean-up days, one before Memorial Day to have the grounds at their best then, a second later in the year, perhaps in the fall. Suzan suggested connecting with Hallowe'en—perhaps even moving the party there, or providing special Hallowe'en gifts/ special rewards for those who had worked at Hallowe'en clean-up day
    4. provide a “cool day” in case the weather is uncomfortably hot
    5. have sign-ups/registration so that interested people can be reminded
  - c. Given the ideas Suzan generated, it was suggested that we involve the Groundskeepers in the planning for future Clean-ups.
3. Headstone cleaning and repair workshop:
  - a. The Zoom presentation was poorly attended. Copies were sent to registrants and those who requested it.
  - b. Publicity so far has included a Town Announce message and flyers; DS has also contacted cemetery commissioners of surrounding towns to the extent that contact information could be found.
  - c. Suzan volunteered to post a notice on Nextdoor.
  - d. It was decided that WT would create an additional flyer, and SM would distribute it to the libraries and stores of nearby hilltowns (Wendell, New Salem, Pelham and Leverett as well as Shutesbury).
  - e. The Groundskeepers suggest we ask TaMara what's best to do with the challenged stones.

4. Maintenance of equipment:
  - a. WT hasn't yet contacted Devon Lane of Belchertown about maintenance. If the Commission can't afford maintenance of all the equipment, the focus should be on the smaller Husqvarna riding mower.
  - b. Selling the bigger string trimmer or seeing if the DPW wants it was discussed: it's not being used, and simply occupies space which could have other uses.
5. Needed equipment or supplies:
  - a. leaf-blower, like the one used last year, is needed.
  - b. Does oil need to be purchased?
6. New email account needed: since we can't use the fire department email any longer once WT has retired. Wanted: an address all of the Commissioners can use. SM volunteered to contact Gail Fleischaker of the Web Communication Committee about this.
7. Unanticipated Item: The Groundskeepers are concerned about grass seed being planted in the Natural Burial section of West, which is causing problems for the Groundskeepers because it means uneven patterns of growth and therefore mowing. How to handle this:
  - a. Talk to Denis Clark about this?
  - b. Consider regulation, but how much can individuals be regulated about their care of graves?
  - c. Perhaps hire someone to seed the whole area?
8. Date for next meeting: Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 6 p.m.
9. Adjournment at 6:55: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously carried by roll call vote.

Submitted by

*Susan Millinger*

Cemetery Commission secretary