

**Minutes of 8/19/22 Cemetery Commission**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Remote Access Meeting with Zoom**  
**(Under Emergency Order for Pandemic)**  
**Approved at the Meeting of 9/22/2022**

Members present: Walter Tibbetts (WT), Dina Stander (DS), Susan Millinger (SM). Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. Minutes of the July 20 meeting: Motion to accept the Minutes of July 20 was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended, by a roll call vote.  
Minutes of the June meeting: Were presented to check that the secretary's emendations were what the Commission approved; the members agreed they were.
2. Headstone cleaning and repair workshop:
  - a. October 8 is open, with a rain date on October 9. Start time will be 10—it's unsure whether until 2 or 3 p.m. WT will confirm dates and check on the time.
  - b. Ta'Mara will post the event on her website.
  - c. Decided not to ask people to register.
  - d. Publicity: *Our Town*: By deadline, DS will send a short piece including what the Commission has been doing and a notice of this event; SM will check expected distribution date.
  - e. Flyers to go out by September 23 at the latest. The flyer or flyers need to be proofread. Each member will take some for distribution; SM will distribute to libraries, stores, and town halls of Shutesbury and surrounding towns, like last time.
  - f. Information to include: Instruction starting at 10 a.m., then hands on work cleaning stones. Attendees should wear comfortable clothes; bring gloves; something to sit on; lunch and a beverage
3. Equipment:
  - a. Maintenance: Devon Lane of Belchertown finally returned WT's call about maintenance, but widely different lengths of time for the work were provided. WT has, therefore, decided to do the maintenance himself. Can contact Devon Lane if any parts are needed.
  - b. New equipment: No progress has been made on acquiring the leaf-blower the groundkeepers have requested.
  - c. The requested tour of the equipment in the Hearse House took place as planned on July 28: WT gave SM the informative tour.
  - d. Question was asked about the original hearse. There is no known history of the hearse; there is an old photo of the Hearse House.
4. New email account and website information:

- a. WT's personal phone number is now online as the contact phone for the Cemetery Commission
  - b. DS wants a reminder to set up a session with Gail on the website.
5. New burials and lot sales:
- a. There have been no new burials or lot sales, but there have been two requests. One was for a green burial site, but the person inquiring had no Shutesbury connections.
  - b. The Commission agreed that its members like the flexibility of allowing cremains to be included with green burials
  - c. The request discussed at the last meeting, for a lot for a green burial which would also contain the cremains of three family members, is from a Shutesbury resident. The information that our policy is that no more than three cremains can be added to a burial had been provided earlier; the requirements for container(s) for remains was also provided.
  - d. DS provided a draft of "Interring cremated remains in Shutesbury's Cemeteries" which was discussed.
6. Unfinished/ongoing business
- a. Discussion of "Opening, Closing and Maintenance of a Green Burial Grave" taken from Lee Webster's *Changing Landscapes* (2016), which DS provided.
  - b. Adopting the draft DS provided on interring cremated remains after further discussion of it.
  - c. Discussing how restrictive to be about material objects buried in the Green Burial section.
  - d. Consideration of the impact of the drought on Shutesbury's cemeteries. DS noted that there is a tiny rare orchid in Pratt Corner Road Cemetery. What steps should/could we take to protect it from drought?
7. Date for next meeting: Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 6 p.m. Note the unusual Thursday meeting.
8. Adjournment at 7:03: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously carried by roll call vote.

Submitted by

*Susan Millinger*

Cemetery Commission secretary

