

Minutes of 5/17/2023 Cemetery Commission

6:00 PM

**Hybrid Meeting with Zoom
(Under Emergency Order for Pandemic)
Approved at the Meeting of 6.28.23**

Members present: Walter Tibbetts (WT), Dina Stander (DS), Susan Millinger (SM). Guest, Leslie Bracebridge from the Friends of the Historical Commission. The Meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m.

- 1) Minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting: passed over until they can be corrected.
- 2) Minutes of November 11, 2022: are to be sent out again for corrections.
- 3) Friend of the Historical Commission gift: Leslie Bracebridge reported that the Friends had voted to support the Cemetery Commission's proposed project of Historic Gravestone Restoration at West Cemetery with a grant of \$1,000, instead of the \$500 originally committed. In addition, the Friends had voted to give the Commission \$3,000 to use for further historical restoration projects in any municipally owned cemetery. A motion was made to vote to accept the gift of \$3,000 from the Friends of the Historical Commission. The motion was seconded and approved by a roll call vote by WT and DS; SM abstained as a member of the Friends
- 4) New burials and lot sales: An inquiry was made for a lot at the Locks Pond Cemetery (the second inquiry for a lot there in recent weeks.) In addition, the person whose inquiry about burial in the green/natural area was approved at the last meeting plans soon to pick out a plot. On July 22, there will be a burial of cremains in a lot purchased last fall in the main portion of West Cemetery

- 5) Website issues: SM needs to look through the minutes to find the texts of further additions to Cemetery Regulations to be given to Gail Fleischaker.
- 6) Acquisition of a small external hard drive was approved in the April meeting. WT will purchase it when he has time.
- 7) Request about a stone for a green/natural burial:
- a) Notre Dame Monuments, Inc. of South Hadley has produced the stone for Andy Fairfield's grave. Its dimensions are 1' by 2" by 4 or 5"; it is slightly sloped. WT judges it will be easy to maintain. It does not, as was thought (see the April minutes) require a bluestone slab beneath it for support.
- b) The question was raised: does the Commission need regulations about the size and type of gravestones? Is a manufactured, polished stone acceptable? What about boulders from the woods?
- c) Another question: Should we add to the regulations that those adding having gravestones installed should check first with the Cemetery Commission to ensure that the stones are placed correctly?
- 8) Zoom issues: As approved at the April meeting, WT signed up for a Zoom account for the Commission. He had to use his own credit card for the one year's subscription which was required, so will require reimbursement. WT will send DS and SM the necessary information to allow them to sign on.

New Business:

- 9) DS asks: Could there be green burials in the Locks Pond and other Town cemeteries? The Board of Health is working on new regulations about the siting of green/natural burials in connection with the cemetery of the Jewish Community of Amherst; these when finished may well affect Town cemeteries. At present, green/natural burials can only take place in the green/natural section of West Cemetery.

10) Maintenance of equipment:

- a) The groundskeepers have requested orange cones which they can employ when working near Leverett Road. They have borrowed 5 from the DPW; WT will buy more. WT has also ordered oil filters and blades for the riding mowers. He commented that experience has shown it is easier to buy online than use local firms.
- b) Since it is also increasingly difficult to get local firms to adequately maintain Commission equipment. WT proposes that the Commission consider a warrant to pay WT for equipment maintenance.

7) Date for next meeting: Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 6 p.m. 8) Adjournment at 6:38. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously carried by a roll call vote.

Submitted by *Susan Millinger*
Cemetery Commission secretary