

**Minutes of 2/28/2024 Cemetery Commission final
6 P.M.
Minutes Approved at the Meeting of March 20, 2024**

Members present: Walter Tibbetts (WT) and Susan Millinger (SM). Dina Stander was absent, recovering from surgery.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

1) Minutes of the Special January 23, 2023 meeting: Motion to approve these minutes as corrected was made, seconded and the motion was unanimously passed by a roll call vote.

2) New burials and lot sales:

a. No new burials or lot sales.

3) Policy on Markers on the graves of veterans: WT was approving a marker for a veteran, which requires signing an approval form. He was contacted by the Veterans Administration about its policy for the approval form. Before the VA can place a headstone or marker on the grave of a veteran, a member of the Cemetery Commission must sign a form giving approval. The Commission could instead sign a waiver to give the VA permission to sign the approval. After discussion, the Commission decided to keep the right to sign the form, given our need to ensure that only appropriate markers are placed in the natural/green section.

4) Update on the Hiring of new Groundskeepers:

a. WT met with the Personnel Committee and went over the updated job description, which the Committee approved.

b. The matter then went to the next meeting of the Select Board, where it was approved.

c. Raising the hourly wage was also discussed; the demands on a small town's budget make it hard to raise staff wages as much as the Town might like. It was agreed to raise the grade to Grade 5, which would mean a slight hourly increase. The Town Administrator gave a range which can be advertised: \$17.29 to \$17.81 (current wage: \$17.53.)

d. WT just recently heard of a possible candidate, a good one, with the relevant skills. He will contact him.

5) Update on ground penetrating radar and mapping project: Perry has not contacted us; WT will email him again.

6) Letter to State Legislature supporting bills H.2193 and S.1339: SM will take over the letter-writing.

7) Other Unfinished Business: Checking with Ta'Mara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services about her schedule: WT will check to see when she will be available for work on West Cemetery gravestones.

8) Brush cutting and Tree work at West Cemetery:

a. WT reported that Steve Sullivan as the new Tree Warden has two years of money budgeted for tree work to be spent by the end of this fiscal year. He approached WT about possible cemetery projects. WT identified four pine trees in the Luther Henry Tomb Lot section of West Cemetery as potentially problem trees: two among the gravestones, and two on the outskirts: the latter could be more easily removed. Steve will be able to use his Tree Warden budget to take care of as many of the pines as the budget will permit.

b. Brush cutting has been on WT's agenda for some time, especially cutting behind the Hearse House. Since the Town Cemeteries are overseen by the Highway Department, Steve as its superintendent can bring his workers to cut brush at West Cemetery.

9) Items not anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting:

a. Doc Pruyne, a reporter for *The Reminder*, is interested in the subject of ground-penetrating radar; WT will contact him.

10) Date and time for the Next Meeting: March 20 at 6 p.m.

11) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously approved in a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Submitted by
Susan Millinger,
Cemetery Commission secretary