

VERNON CEMETERY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

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The regular meeting of the Vernon Cemetery Commission was called to order at 3:03 p.m. via ZOOM network by Chairman Bruce Luddy. Members present were Bruce Luddy, Stuart Edwards, Norine Edwards, and Wayne Reiske. One position is vacant. Also present were Superintendent Travis Clark and Secretary Carol Nelson.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Norine Edwards, seconded by Stu Edwards and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020 regular meeting as presented. The June meeting was cancelled.

Superintendent's Report –

- a. Covid-19 update- The protocol established by the Governor and the Town of Vernon Administration has been followed with no issues. Burials increased during the period of April through June with many more scheduled in August. There is a notable increase in cremation burials. Gloves and masks with disinfecting have been the procedure followed.
- b. Staffing – We are fully staffed with two seasonal workers who are hired and paid through a temporary agency. They will continue working through the fall as their college schedule permits.
- c. Monument Cleaning – We have begun offering monument cleaning services. Brushes and a non-caustic recommended cleaner (D2) have been purchased. We cleaned the Phelps mausoleum and several other stones providing additional revenue and enhancing the appearance of the cemetery.
- d. Grove Hill – A paving project is taking place with grading by Rafferty and paving by Galasso in sections 2 and 11. A water line has been added at the same time to the vault area. Tree trimming continues. There was minimal damage during the recent storm although staff was called upon immediately following the storm to help clear trees from roadways. A new chainsaw was put to use. Stumps are being removed and areas regraded with the help of Public Works Department.
- e. Elmwood – Similar roadwork is in process with grading completed on the exterior roadways and reclaiming to take place. The stone wall was in poor condition and has been repaired and rebuilt in house.

Unfinished Business –

- a. David Allis headstone – Bamforth Road Cemetery – The reproduction gravestone was completed by artist Randall Nelson and was installed in June with the help of cemetery staff. Dedication plans with the Sons of the American Revolution, Cincinnati Chapter, have been put off to the late summer of 2021. Jon Roe has presented an informative program of early Bolton history that includes Allis.

- b. Tri Fold walking tour brochure at Grove Hill – Jean Luddy has done much work in gathering information for a brochure focusing on the lives of nearly thirty persons buried in Grove Hill. A second loop may be needed.

New Business –

- a. Lutz CD Account – This account was established with a \$400 bequest in the will of Wilfred Lutz, former Town of Vernon auditor who passed in 1972. It directs the funds to be placed in a local bank and to be used for the repair or replacement of the monument on the family lot. It has grown to a recent maturity at \$4,147.68. The monies were placed in the Money Market account to await direction and improved interest rates. The will also permits monies over \$1250 with the permission of the Grove Hill Cemetery Commission to be used for maintaining or improving the cemetery. The Lutz family members will be contacted for suggestions on how best to honor Mr. Lutz.
- b. 10 x 20 Tent – The purchasing of a new tent is requested in that the present one is aging, is difficult to set-up requiring two people. A pop-up Eurmax commercial grade tent can fit in a bag, would supplement the existing tent, and ideally used on flat ground areas. The price range is \$700. A motion was made by Norine Edwards, seconded by Wayne Reiske and unanimously approved to purchase a 10 x 20 pop-up tent for around \$700 for use at burials.
- c. Planting at Grove Hill & Valley Falls – New plantings are being added this fall with the need to stagger. With so many of the mature trees at the end of their life cycle, the need is most evident. We are able to obtain nursery stock through a wholesaler. This year's budget has a line item to fund this effort.

Any Other Business –

- a. Signage at Valley Falls remains under consideration. Signage for Grove Hill sections is also suggested. We will take a look at other cemeteries to see how signage is addressed. Professional mapping services is also an option.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stu Edwards, seconded by Wayne Reiske with the meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.



Carol S. Nelson

Secretary

Approved: December 8, 2020