

VERNON CEMETERY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

March 10, 2020

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
20 SEP 14 AM 11:13

The regular meeting of the Vernon Cemetery Commission was called to order at 3:15 p.m. at the Cemetery Office at Grove Hill Cemetery by Chairman Bruce Luddy. Members present were Bruce Luddy, Stuart Edwards, Norine Edwards, and Wayne Reiske. Absent was Judy Hany. Also present were Superintendent Travis Clark and Secretary Carol Nelson.

Members toured Section Cremation B of Grove Hill Cemetery prior to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Norine Edwards, seconded by Wayne Reiske and unanimously voted to approve as presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2019.

Superintendent's Report

- a. Tree trimming at Grove Hill – Extensive tree trimming of lower branches is being performed at Grove Hill. A 1980 small bucket truck has been loaned by Public Works and safety equipment has been purchased. In addition to eliminating the hazard of falling branches, the open space created will improve the turf quality. Assistance from both Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments has been most helpful in lending equipment and offering suggestions.
- b. New England Cemetery Association Management Seminar - Travis attended two days of the December conference in Sturbridge and was able to network with other cemeterians and suppliers. Both Travis and Carol are planning to attend the annual suppliers expo of the Connecticut Cemetery Association.

Unfinished Business

- a. Valley Falls Cremation Section landscape design – The prior donor was contacted and consulted about plant and color preferences. Plans were distributed that show a sustainable design that is easier to maintain. A Japanese maple will be in the center and a few annuals will be used in addition to the perennials. A plant wholesaler will be used to purchase plants for a cost savings.
- b. David Allis Headstone – Bamforth Road Cemetery The gravestone has been completed by artist Randall Nelson. He has been paid the majority of the contract with \$700 retained for its installation that will happen this Spring. Staff will be assisting in its installation. Two dedication ceremonies are being planned, one to include Bolton and Vernon officials and residents and the other organized by the Sons of the American Revolution, Cincinnati Chapter (Ohio), one of whom is a David Allis descendant.

New Business –

- a. Grove Hill Cemetery – Cremation B – redesign : The fourth row was planned for a four grave lot, 6'5" x 5'0" x 5'5". Two flush markers were permitted and also a slant monument. The flush markers are close to the back of the monuments of row three, making the markers difficult to read. Following discussion it was agreed to make row four a flush marker only row with the markers placed at the head of the grave. The price will be reduced accordingly.
- b. Lot availability – Administration asked for numbers of lots available. The following estimates were supplied:  
Grove Hill – 375 (725-750 graves). 85-90% full. Cremation section has 40 lots available  
Valley Falls – 150 lots (300-320 graves). 20% full. Remaining sections have not been pinned.  
Elmwood – 20 lots and 30 cremation lots in pathways. Approximately 95% full.  
The trend in cremation vs. full burials with competition from the free CT Veterans Cemetery and church cremation gardens have lowered demand in our cemeteries to approximately thirty lots sold each year.
- c. Additional Revenue Sources – With the number of burials down there are other opportunities being explored to increase revenue. Offering monument cleaning is being explored. The Maxwell monument was successfully cleaning recently with a solution D2, recommended for monument cleaning. The Phelps and Bond mausoleums will be cleaned and their trusts billed for the work. Another potential source of revenue is the offering for sale benches and trees with accompanying plaques.
- d. Tri Fold walking tour brochure at Grove Hill – Jean Luddy has been consulted and will be working with staff to produce a brochure with information and highlights of the cemetery to include art, symbols, and history. Mile makers are being considered to measure distances. The number of walkers using the cemetery for exercise has increased over the past few years.
- e. Sign at Valley Falls – An informational sign at the entrance is being considered. Rules and regulations could be posted and brochures made available. This might qualify as an Eagle Scout Project.

Any Other Business

- a. A new dump truck has been requested for the next fiscal year. Travis met with the Capital Improvements Commission. Although the present truck is a 2002 and mileage is low, it has had heavy use.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m. with a motion made by Norine Edwards, seconded by Wayne Reiske and unanimously approved.

Approved: September 8, 2020



Carol S. Nelson

Cemetery Secretary