

VERNON CEMETERY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
September 14, 2021

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The regular meeting of the Vernon Cemetery Commission was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Luddy at the Grove Hill Cemetery Office Building, 22 Cemetery Avenue. Members present were Bruce Luddy, Stuart Edwards, Norine Edwards, and Wayne Reiske. TeriLynn Rogers was also present, joining via cell phone. Also present were Superintendent Travis Clark and Secretary Carol Nelson.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Norine Edwards, seconded by Wayne Reiske and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2021 special meeting as presented.

Superintendent's Report –

- a. Staffing – The two seasonal college students have returned to school and were replaced with two other young maintainers, one of whom is leaving this week. This will leave an opening that is needed for the fall leaf collection and mowing.
- b. Plantings at Grove Hill - Some of the trees at Grove Hill are being replaced. Age and disease have caused many of the trees to be removed. A schedule for replacement is needed and will be implemented with the goal of low maintenance. The center circle in the cremation section at Valley Falls was replanted with low maintenance perennials and is now attractive.
- c. Lot sales increase – The annual amount of monies received from lot sales and burial rights that is placed in the cemetery trust fund has doubled within the past fiscal year from \$9,963 to \$20,940. Sales continue to be strong since July 1 of this year.
- d. Chimney work – The chimney is scheduled for needed work with the top built and repointed and a liner and a separate flue for the wood stove.
- e. Sale of Retired Dump Truck – The truck was auctioned with the help of the DPW and the successful bid netted proceeds of \$10,835.

Unfinished Business –

- a. Tri Fold walking tour brochure at Grove Hill – The brochures will be presented to the Town Council at their next meeting and will then be placed in the distribution boxes. With so many people who walk through the cemetery, it will be a useful tool to promote the history of many who are buried here.

New Business –

- a. Dobsonville Cemetery workday – Saturday, October 2 – Work will be done by Rediscovering History, Inc. in righting and cleaning the stones. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. With the concerns for safety the police chief was consulted as to available parking. It was suggested that Pleasant View Drive would offer street side parking with sidewalk availability along Rt. 83 to the light and crosswalk. Parking is also available on Miriam Drive off of Dobson Road with sidewalks available. Participants are advised to use caution and cross when safe to do so. The general public will only

be allowed to view the work in progress and tour the cemetery with Ruth Shapleigh Brown of the Connecticut Gravestone Network.

- b. Wreaths Across America – The ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 12:00 noon.
- c. Healing Hands Project - TeriLynn Rogers presented a request from this non-profit group the is under the Vernon Community Network. They would like to host a Halloween event on Saturday, October 30 at the Grove Hill Cemetery Field. As this would be an evening event and concern for the safety of not only the participants but also the monuments and markers that are along the narrow roadways, it was determined that this would not be an appropriate use. The cemeteries close at sunset.
- d. Chapel – There is no update on the restoration of the chapel. We continue to wait for progress in its designation as an historic landmark.

Adjourn -

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. with a motion made by Norine Edwards and seconded by Wayne Reiske.



Carol S. Nelson

Secretary

Approved: December 14, 2021