

Town Hill Cemetery Committee
Town of New Hartford, CT
Virtual Meeting held by Zoom
Special Meeting
May 14 2020

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

Present: Mary Lou Rayno (chairman), Debra Lindell (treasurer), Anne Hall (secretary), Donna Burdick, Nancy Linton; Dan Jerram (Zoom meeting host, New Hartford Virtual Town Hall)

Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Minutes of September 23, 2019 motion to accept the minutes by Debra, seconded by Donna, all in favor.

Election of Officers:

Donna nominated Mary Lou as chairman, Anne seconded, all in favor

Anne nominated Debra as treasurer, Donna seconded, all in favor

Mary Lou nominated Anne as secretary, Donna seconded, all in favor

Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Debra. See associated documents. Total liquid assets as of the end of April, 2020: \$119,014.36. This is down from last year due the current state of the market. Total plots (illiquid assets) available are 94 for a total of \$94,000 at the agreed upon price of \$1000 per plot. This is an increase from last year; a count of 82 plots due to Mary Lou's continued mapping efforts.

Nancy asked how the checking account functions. Debra explained that the checking account receives payments for plots, any donations (some families periodically donate to the cemetery fund). In addition, whenever the checking account goes below \$2500, Debra requests the town draw funds from the Edward Jones account, generally around \$2000 to \$3000. This goes through the town treasurer. Generally, we pull from Edward Jones twice a year.

Debra noted that currently the Edward Jones fund is dominated by Mutual Funds with relatively little in Exchange Traded. She suggested that at some point this year, once the market has stabilized we review this with our adviser. The last time we meet with the adviser was about 5 years ago. There was general agreement that we should schedule a meeting. Nancy suggested that perhaps ever two to three years might be a better schedule.

Mary Lou called attention to the 'plot donation' line in the summary of the checking account activity. This was actually payment for grave digging, see the withdrawal from the checking account made to Jespersen Landscaping. The overage was returned to the families and Montano-Shea. See the September 2019 minutes for a detailed accounting. It was suggested that the line would be cleared if it said 'grave digging' in the future, should this happen again.

Nancy made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Donna, all in favor

Cemetery Visitors

Mary Lou noted that in December 2019 the police had been called to the cemetery by the neighbors due to late night visitors in the cemetery. The people were apparently visiting a grave to commune with the deceased. There was no damage.

Decayed/Diseased Trees

It was determined that Mary Lou, Anne, and other board members if available would meet with the town tree warden, Brenda Schaffler, to review the potential hazard trees in the cemetery. This will be a special meeting.

Monument Restoration

Last year the 2 back obelisks were reset by John Ciesco. The commission would like to continue to restore a few monuments each year. However, after discussion it was determined that tree work may be more necessary this year; but that at the special meeting for the trees we will also draw up a list of priority monuments.

Monument Cleaning

Mary Lou noted that there was some interest by the Scouts to help clean monuments. This idea was tabled for the time being due to not being sure which monuments would benefit and the problems of the Covid-19 pandemic social distancing requirements. Will be revisited.

Memorial Day

It was determined that the commission will participate in a virtual celebration of Memorial Day, possibly ringing the bell for an online video.

Motion to Adjourn: made by Donna at 4:48. Seconded by Debra, all in favor.