

Town Hill Cemetery Commission  
Regular Meeting  
4 PM, December 4, 2023  
Location: Town Hill Cemetery, New Hartford, CT

Present: Mary Lou Rayno, Debra Lindell, Nancy Linton, Donna Burdick, Anne Hall, Dan Jerram

Mary Lou reported that Gary Niksa of Edward Jones was not able to come as scheduled to this meeting. She said that he would be able to come to the March meeting, which is also the meeting at which the commission sets the annual budget. All agreed that this made sense.

Debra reported that the Edward Jones endowment currently hold \$128,429.46, this is up from last year (\$127,924.50) and up from the balance in April (\$123,945.10)

Mary Lou reported that the checking account has a current balance of \$2485.60 and that only one more regular bill is expected for 2023, this will be the fall cleanup bill and should be between \$1200 and \$1400.

Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to approve by Debra, seconded by Donna, all in favor.

Tree work: Mary Lou received quotes from three companies regarding the dying Sugar Maple removal. Lebel was \$3200, Precision was \$2800, and Bristol was \$2000. Both Lebel and Precision expressed concern on working in a cemetery. Based on Bristol's previous work for the cemetery and the low bid, it was decided to go with Bristol. Motion to give Bristol the job made by Nancy, seconded by Debra, all in favor.

Donations: Mary Lou noted that the cemetery received a \$500 donation from Stephanie Zimbalist in September. A thank you note was sent.

Request for a refund: Mary Lou reported that John Bartram had verbally approached her about moving his mother's stone and cornerstones and receiving a refund for the plot. Mary Lou told him that it needed to be approved by the commission. She reported that the plot had been purchased in 1987 for \$250. It was noted that the current bylaws say that it is a nonrefundable donation. However, Mary Lou noted that we have previously given a refund for a plot. Anne clarified that the cost of moving the stone and returning the plot to original condition must be the family's cost. Debra stated that whatever agreement is made needs to be in writing. Nancy asked if we had a written request from Mr. Bartram or just verbal. She said that our decision should be 'pending' until we had a clear written request from him. Mary Lou stated that it wasn't exactly clear what he wanted to do, and she had been unable to reach him again. But at one point he had seemed to suggest that he or someone in the family might still want the plot. Nancy noted that he should be informed that buying a new plot would now cost \$1000, so if someone in his family wanted the plot, it would make sense for the family to retain it.

(Note Dan Jerram left the meeting at this time)

Following the discussion it was decided that two options should be presented to Mr. Bartram:

He could remove the headstone and cornerstones, return the plot to original condition, and receive a refund for the purchase price of \$250

Or, he could remove the headstone, change the cornerstones to the appropriate initial, and retain the plot. In this case, there would be no refund.

In both cases, the work could not be undertaken until the cemetery reopens in the spring and all expenses of removal would be his.

In any case, the commission needs a written request before it can act.

It was decided that Mary Lou would reach back out to him and explain the options and get a written request. Any action was tabled until March.

Anne noted that this request highlighted some issues with the bylaws. It was agreed that the March meeting would include a review of the bylaws. Mary Lou noted that the most recent version was from 2015.

Meeting Dates for 2024

March 4 at 4 pm

May 6 at 4 pm

August 5 at 4 pm

December 2 at 4 pm

Motion to set dates for 2024 made by Debra, seconded by Donna, all in favor.

Election of Officers

Donna asked if everyone was still happy with their current positions? Hearing agreement, she proposed the following slate

Chair: Mary Lou

Treasurer: Debra

Secretary: Anne

Motion to elect the slate made by Donna, seconded by Nancy, all in favor

(Note Dan rejoined meeting at this time) He concurred that a review of bylaws was needed, especially in order to clarify the transferability or not of plots.

Motion to adjourn made by Nancy, seconded by Donna, all in favor.