

Town Hill Cemetery Committee
Town of New Hartford, CT
540 Town Hill Rd, New Hartford, CT
Special Meeting
August 5, 2019

Meeting called to order at 4:58 PM

Present: Mary Lou Rayno (chairman), Debra Lindell (treasurer), Anne Hall (secretary), Donna Burdick, Nancy Linton (member of the public, prospective board member, non-voting)

Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Minutes of May 7 2019: Debra motion to approve, Donna seconded, all in favor.

Assessment of Plot Donations: Currently the cemetery charges \$800 for a 4x8 plot. Mary Lou has researched surrounding cemeteries in the area and found that they charge between \$1100 and \$1300. This includes the similar cemeteries of Bakerville, Nepaug, and Village. Anne noted that it is likely in the foreseeable future that our expenses for tree maintenance and stone repair/stabilization will be higher. Following discussion there was general consensus that some form of gradual increase was appropriate. Mary Lou felt that people currently discussing the purchase of a plot should be excluded from any increase. There was general agreement.

Motion: To increase, going forward, the price of a 4'x8' plot to \$1000. Motion made by Donna, seconded by Debbie, all in favor.

Burial Payments:

The historic model has been that the cost of opening the grave, hiring the gravedigger, and any associated costs has been handled directly between the funeral home and the family, with the funeral home paying the grave digger. The primary funeral home in the area is no longer doing this, and the cemetery is now expected to handle the transactions between the grave digger and the family. Most cemeteries charge the family a fee for opening the grave that includes the cost of the grave digger and an added expenses fee. This practice was discovered by Mary Lou following a full burial and a cremation burial this spring. In both cases (Burk and Zimbalist burials) the cemetery was given checks which included the grave digger's fee and an additional amount. The committee discussed how we might or if change the cemetery's bylaws to handle this. It was determined that some more research was needed. It was also agreed that Mary Lou should contact the two families about the additional amounts to see if they meant this as a donation or desired to be reimbursed as at this time the cemetery does not charge for opening the grave.

Restoration of Historical Monuments

A proposal has been received from Ciesco Memorials to stabilize the two Steele family monuments. These two obelisks have been leaning at increasingly severe angles, with definite movement in the last winter. Ciesco quoted \$850 for removing the two obelisks from the old foundations, pouring new foundations, and resetting the monuments. Debra asked what the timeline was. Mary Lou said the work would be done this fall.

Motion: To accept the Ciesco Memorials quote to reset the two Steele family monuments for \$850 each. Motion made by Debra, seconded by Donna, all in favor

2020 Meeting Dates

Proposed: February 1st, 2020, May 2, 2020 (annual meeting), August 1, 2020, November 7, 2020

Motion to accept the proposed 2020 dates: Motion made by Anne, seconded by Debra, all in favor

Driveway: Mary Lou noted that the Town had paved the driveway. All agreed that it was a good job.

Mary Lou congratulated Sue Hall, who has resigned from the committee due to moving out of state, for her many years of service. All in agreement.

Motion to Adjourn: made by Sue at 5:43. Seconded by Debra, all in favor.