

Somers Cemetery
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2024

1. Call to order: 6:30
2. Members present: Pat Bachetti, David McCaffrey, Pat Loftus. Note pending retirement of David Morgan
3. Public comment: Douglas Debuque, 124 Springfield Rd. spoke about having to pay a landscaper twice to clean up leaves on his property. Though all of his surrounding neighbors have multiple trees and there are forested areas to the east and west of his property he felt that leaves from North Cemetery were the problem. The contracted landscaper for the Cemetery Committee had cleaned the cemetery but whether it was before, during or after the private work was done is unknown. There seemed to be a hope that the Cemetery Committee would offer to have our landscaper clean his property. That was denied. Tree Warden, Todd Rolland also spoke to the issue in support of the committee discussion.
4. Vote to approve the minutes from July 2024's meeting. Motion: D.McCaffrey, 2nd P. Bachetti, passed 3/0.
5. Committee reports:
 - a. Finance:
 1. Monthly & Quarterly reports including Morgan Stanley update are on file in the Finance office.
 2. Progress on Irrevocable trust: Brian reported that more research needs to be done by his office.
 3. Landscape Architect (G&W) contacted by finance office. The addition of section 2 (see map available in finance office) should yield 1,500 – 1,600 new sites. All will be single but purchasable in larger quantities. Since we have no written requirements on the size of an upright stone for single graves that must be determined first. The present and former sextons will be part of this discussion. We do have for other areas of Center Cemetery a flat stone regulation for singles. It is now being considered allowing an upright stone for the newer section. Further discussion towards a resolution to be held at the January meeting.

Fall clean-up was completed the first week of November.
 - b. Sexton – Jeff Buckley – not present
 - c. Landscaping – Jon Guzie – not present
 - d. DPW - Mountain Tree work in New West completed and billed. See Finance office.

Need total for minutes.

Todd Rolland presented a lengthy report on work done at all cemeteries. See Attached. The Center Cemetery well failed and the electrical panel for the pump is being replaced. New West has been walked with the Cemetery Chair and approximately 25 shrubs planted by the public have been determined to be in poor condition, overgrown and intruding on head stone foundations etc. These will be removed with public notice given by the tree warden and DPW in

SOMERS CEMETERY

2025 MEETING DATES

6:30PM Town hall lower meeting room

JANUARY 8

MARCH 12

MAY 14

JULY 9

SEPTEMBER 10

NOVEMBER 12

Town of Somers
Department of Public Works
Cemeteries Report
11/13/2024

1. Center Cemetery:

- a. The well failed. A fitting on the supply line failed, causing the well to run continuously until it filled the well vault. This caused the electrical panel to short out. We pumped out the water and are having the electrical panel and failed line repaired.
- b. DPW will remove trash from the debris piles in the dump area (gravel pit).
- c. We have asked Frank's Landscaping for a price for installing irrigation throughout.
- d. Frank, while looking at these grounds, suggested aerating, overseeding, and fertilizing all outside areas in the fall and spring to improve the turf.

2. North Cemetery:

- a.

3. New West Cemetery:

- a. Several bushes have grown into gravestones and should be trimmed or removed. I want to walk around this cemetery with a committee member and mark which bushes to remove.

4. Old West Cemetery:

- a. DPW will have the dead tree on the west side of the property line removed.
- b. DPW will have the back tree line trimmed. Any dead trees will be removed.

Respectfully,

Todd Rolland
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