

Harwich Cemetery Commission
Town Hall – Small Hearing Room
732 Main Street, Harwich
August 16, 2023

In attendance are Steven Conner, Chair, Robert Thompson, Commissioners, and Robbin Kelley, Cemetery Administrator.

Call to order at 9:01 AM by Steven Conner.

Rob made a motion to approve the minutes of March 7th as printed. Steve second and it was unanimous.

Old Business and Correspondence

Email from Sue Paist: ArbNet Coordinator sending Congratulations on your ArbNet accreditation upgrade at Level II through the ArbNet Accreditation Program. Robbin will be going before the Board of Selectmen Monday 21st.

Discussion on the Arboretum: Russ Norton helped with the installation of tree tags and identified additional trees that we don't have on the list. I'm still waiting for the Blue Flax Design, for the removal of poison ivy in one area so I can't get in there to identify it.

Email from Jan Moore: The New 2023 CPC Application will be digital, the new submission date is October 2, 2023. A possible new article will be a raised platform walking trail in the Cedar swamps which was started many years ago when Amy Usowski had completed the Island Pond Conservation land inventory by BSC group. Their initial evaluation of that property talked about doing a walking trail in Cedar Swamp with a raised platform viewing area. Robbin talked to Amy and HTC about the project, and it was well received. Rob: "the idea of a three way participation between our commission, conservation, and HCT would be a great idea."

Fax from Jackson Hibbert regarding Pine Grove: Selling a lot back to the town. Rob makes a motion to purchase back the graves for \$400.00 to make the lot available for purchase; it was seconded by Steve.

Up-to-date totals for the Cemetery Revolving account are not in the packet so we will have to review that next month.

Rockland Trust Perpetual Care Account: Email from Barbara to Rob and Robbin. Robbin will set up a 3-way phone call to address some questions.

Email from Jan Moore on Update Status Report on CPC Articles from September 14, 2023: The report is due on Thursday, September 7th. Robbin will be going before their committee to give them a report on all three of our outstanding CPC articles.

Email from Faythe Ellis, Brewster CPC on Application Status: Discussion on CPC Article, The Brewster opinion is that it doesn't meet their definition of "Historic." Unfortunately, they are Approved at September 7, 2023 Cemetery Commission Meeting.

not going to be able to assist us but there are people in the Brewster community that would like to, so I'll reach out to them.

Veterans Memorial Phases: We are still waiting for Tom Blute's input.

Robbin reached out to Hamco about putting in their footings for their flagpoles. Tom would then have the granite delivered. Tom is in coordination with them. Hamco would like Paul Sweetser to flag out the placement of the flags. Steve made a motion to have Paul Sweetser go out to the site for the placement of the flags with the members present; it was seconded by Rob.

Email from Russ Norton: Tree tag installation continues. Russ went out and tagged trees again. We are short on some of the trees and should order a couple more like the black Oaks. Robbin will reach out to the artists at the 204 to see if some artists are interested in sketching the leaves for new tree tags.

Pine Grove fence update: Cape Cod Fence said that they would be out within the next two weeks.

The Lothrop fence update: The fence was completed with the help of AmeriCorps. Discussion of sign for Cemetery to be placed at the trailhead. The commission will visit the cemetery at the end of the meeting to view the placement. Following this visit it was decided to place the sign at the trailhead.

Bank Street Cemetery: Discussion of long-term maintenance and what will be done with the ground. Also, possible AmeriCorps project. Steve asked if Warren Nichols could look at the site and possibly give some recommendations.

Bank Street Sign quotes from Young & Fancy Signs with new quotes for installation. Rob made a motion to accept the \$1,750 price quote which was seconded by Steve.

Bank Statements on the Perpetual Care Fund were discussed. We will be seeking additional information from Rockland Trust. Rob asked about deposits from last year. We are still waiting for them to be moved into the PC Account.

New Business:

Rob would like to have a list of things to be done not just for the Veterans Memorial but for other projects as well. A chart or list so can track progress would be helpful.

The walkway for the Walk of Remembrance (to be meandering).

Irrigation lines in Mount Pleasant are a part of ongoing maintenance projects.

Commission visit to North Harwich: Plantings in North Harwich to screen out the neighbors in the back of the cemetery as it is industrial property; plant a garden at the front of the cemetery.

Bills: Agway \$676.96, out of the Tree Article, \$10.95 flags to mark out the graves Amazon, \$18,700 from Village Green for East Harwich Methodist CPC Article, and \$70 for Robbin Kelley mileage.

Approved at September 7, 2023 Cemetery Commission Meeting.

Cemetery Lot Purchases: William Watson 75C Nickerson Avenue in Evergreen Cemetery for \$800.00, Marian Snik for 139 Pond Grove (Cremation lot) in Island Pond Cemetery for \$500.00, John & Kathryn Roth for 427B West Main Avenue Grave #2 in Island Pond for \$900.00, Heath Morrison for 1689 Pond Grove (Cremation lot) in Island Pond for \$550.00, Geraldine O'Malley for 27 Oak Avenue (Graves 1, 2, 5 & 6) in Mount Pleasant Cemetery \$2,400.00.

Other Business

Steve: The town would like us to reorganize, Rob would like us to have Cindy present so we will address it at the next meeting.

Rob made a motion that we explore moving our meeting to the first Thursday of each month instead of the Tuesday; Steve seconded.

Rob made a motion to adjourn at 9:52 and it was seconded.

Approved at September 7, 2023 Cemetery Commission Meeting.