

## Worcester Cemetery Commission Meeting

Thursday, July 20, 2023

### MINUTES

**Present:** Fran Cerulli, Heather Pagel

**Guest:** Judy Knapp, Marla Edson

Called to order at 4:52 p.m.

- 1) **Welcomed Guest** - Judy Knapp and Marla Edson joined, as they were interested in the greenery in the Mountain Cemetery.
- 2) **Approve minutes from December 15, 2022 and May 10, 2023 meetings.** Fran and Heather reviewed both meeting minutes. Fran moved to approve both and Heather seconded - approved. Judy and Marla were interested in item 5. So, we started there before moving to the other items.
- 3) **Stone Cleaning** – Joe Mangan (our sexton) can clean 150 stones this year for \$1,500, usually the worst ones in the Village (old) Cemetery. However, the group noticed that the Mountain (new) Cemetery has some stones that need attention too. We will ask Joe to look there first and will take the number of stones there out of the 150 in the old cemetery. Judy also asked for Joe's contact information, so she can see if he can do some cleaning for her family stones too.
- 4) **Green burial update** - The town dumped some fill in the back, right-hand section of the Mountain Cemetery, from past ditching. Joe said he'd be willing to go back in and spread the dirt to flatten out and landscape the back for \$750. We approved. Fran will tell Joe he can move forward with it.
- 5) **Greenery options in the Mountain Cemetery** - Judy and Marla had noticed that the left side of the Mountain Cemetery seemed somewhat bare, with little foliage or flowers. They were interested to see if we could add some greenery. We mentioned that Matt Delorey (who planted the trees at the entrance) had planted wildflowers last fall and this spring. We talked about other greenery options – flowers or low bushes along the front left side of the cemetery, possibly phlox along the ledges/rocks. We all agreed it did need some more color. Fran said she would check in with Matt Delorey, to see about the wildflowers, or lack thereof. We will also see if there are other options with Matt, since the wildflowers don't seem to be growing or spreading well.
- 6) **Discuss repair of Village Cemetery shed roof** – Heather spoke with Jacob Russell to see if he had time to look at the shed roof, about possible repairs or replacement costs. Unfortunately, he's been super busy and hasn't had time to get to it. We decided to put this on the back burner and check in late summer or fall, to see if we need to address it then.
- 7) **Concrete bases for gravestones & placement. Do we know people who do this/referrals?** – Sylvia Zuanich was wondering if we knew of anyone that does concrete bases for gravestones? It sounded like the company making her husband's stone doesn't do that. Fran said that Joe Mangan does do cement bases, but for a fee. Marla mentioned that the company that did her husband's stone does provide that, but not all companies do. Fran said she would get Joe Mangan's contact information to everyone. Heather will make sure Sylvia gets Joe's info, but if Joe doesn't end up being the one who does it, Sylvia needs to let the Town Clerk, Joe (the sexton) and Cemetery Commissioners know before it is going to be done, and confirm placement.
- 8) **New Business** – None
- 9) **Next Meeting** - Next meeting date TBD. We will wait until the Mountain Cemetery's green burial section is finished by Joe, and hearing back from Matt regarding the wildflowers and/or other greenery options there. Fran moved to adjourn the meeting, Heather seconded. Ended at 5:30pm.

Notes respectfully submitted by Heather Pagel.