

FOUNTAIN HILL CEMETARY ASSOCIATION
Deep River Town Hall
March 18, 2013
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER: Richard Forristall called to order the Committee meeting of the Fountain Hill Cemetery Association at 7:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call: President Richard Forristall, Vice President Mark Lowrey, Directors: Rhonda Forristall, Jayne Mather, Sue Miron, Martin Nadel, Diane Brooks, and Secretary: Melissa Lowrey

Absent: Tom Skinner, and Matt Elgart

III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of January 21, 2013 meeting were approved as written with the following changes:
The Spring Walk is to be held Sunday, April 28th at 3 o'clock, not April 29th as previously stated.

IV. Communications

Jayne Mather received a letter from the Wild Flower Society offering their services to monitor our plants. The Committee has no interest at this time.

Plots

A couple contacted Richard, asking the Foundation to buy back two plots (# 173 and #174). The Committee made and approved a motion to do so. As is the policy, the reimbursement will be minus one third, which is designated to the Perpetual Care Fund.

An inquiry was made for a cremation burial. They were advised there is available space.

V. Chairman's Report – Richard Forristall

Superintendent Injured

Richard reported that Shawn was in a car accident, injuring both legs. At this time, it is not known how long he will be out.

The Committee is looking at temporary replacement support from a few people. Russell Rankin has offered his services digging graves. John Johns, usually part time, may start earlier this year, although the Committee would like to keep his hours to a 30-hour week, with exceptions as needed. Dick Kolmer could assist in supervising John, and would be available to cut down trees and mow. Dick would also be oriented to sell plots in the Ziegler section. If another area was requested, they would be asked to wait until Shawn's return.

Doug Wilson has offered to work for ten dollars an hour. (He has also donated a fountain pump for the pond.)

Snow Storms

The cemetery was hit twice this year. The first storm took down a few large trees. Those have been cleared. The town came and plowed out for us. The second storm took down more trees and branches. Shawn did a good job plowing Sunday, right after the storm. He then submitted a bill for \$250 for use of his truck to plow. Shawn has also been using his compressor and it finally

has broken down. Shawn submitted a bill for \$120 for his compressor. In the future, the Committee will request that Shawn use our equipment, as opposed to paying for the use of someone else's equipment. The Committee discussed Shawn's submitted invoices. A motion was made and approved to combine them and pay \$300 total.

Dr. Ziegler's Funeral Service

Funeral services for Sumner Ziegler were held at the Wooster Chapel, at his request. Members of the Committee attended and were pleased with how things were pulled together for this special service. Mark took care of the heat with a propane blower, making it very comfortable and Shawn brought back some benches he had been working on. The Committee commented on how nice it was to hear prayers and singing in the chapel. Mrs. Ziegler was also very pleased, and expressed her thanks to Mark. Rhonda will be sending her some pictures of the Chapel.

Changes to Pricing

The last few months, there have been inquiries from a funeral home that they were getting double billed for opening and closing of the graves and for the greens and lowering devices. Rich took a look at pricing. The cemetery is using the funeral homes greens and lowering devices and he will make amends to the wording.

While the Committee was viewing current pricing, the rates were compared to other cemeteries, which shows Fountain Hill rates on the lower side. A motion was made and approved to accept the current rates and re-visit prices at the annual meeting to be held May 20th.

Committee Member Update

Everyone attending this meeting confirmed their participation for the next year. Kim Olson has resigned from the Committee. This leaves us short two members. Sue Morin and Diane Brooks are looking into possible new members. Mark mentioned inviting Russell Rankin and Scott Nelson. Once the two new members are added, and in addition to the first selectman, the Committee will be complete.

VI. Financial Statement – Jayne Mather

We are at 83.3% and on track financially. There is \$19,000 in the General Fund and \$11,000 for the Wooster Memorial. Mrs. Ziegler sent notification that the company MERC should be matching the gift her husband, Dr. Ziegler, gave, in the amount of \$7,000.

The Executive Committee is preparing the budget. Rich and Jayne are to meet with the First Selectman, Dick Smith, to see what the allotment from the town will be this year.

VII. Payment of Bills – no report

VIII. Superintendent's Report

Tool Inventory

Richard will be taking an inventory of the tools we have and what we may need to purchase. Current items we are looking at include a weed whacker, a blower and a used truck. Shawn has a truck we currently lease for \$3,000 each year. He has offered to sell it for \$5,000. The body is good and the engine and dump mechanism have both been replaced. Richard will also make an inquiry to Dick Smith to see if there are any old trucks the town is retiring. The Committee has not yet decided if we will purchase that or look elsewhere for one. Once we do, it was recommended that we purchase liability insurance.

To save some money, Richard will ask Dick Smith if the town can pick up trash or if we should have a dumpster available.

Repairs on John Deere Trackers

Instead of bringing our trackers to a John Deere servicing facility, it was noted Marvin sends a crew out to make repairs, and at less cost. We will look into using them.

IX. Committee Reports

Wooster Chapel – Mark Lowrey

The triple-stained glass window repair is progressing. Mark hopes to have this completed in May. The next step is installing power to the building then to replace the rest of the windows. This will improve the appearance of the Chapel and hopefully, generate more interest.

Town Newsletter

Rhonda has submitted an article on the cemetery. She would also like to share some information on Dr. Ziegler's service.

X. New Business

Future Events at the Chapel

The Committee discussed possible events that could be held at the Chapel. Funeral services, along with weddings and renewal of vows were mentioned. These could all generate income.

Paranormal Site Visit

Sue Morin reported this has been placed on hold until the warmer weather arrives.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 20th.

XI. Old Business

Spring Walk –April 28 - 2 p.m.

Rhonda has had maps made highlighting key points of interest and Tim Haut is on board again this year to narrate the walk. We will again have coffee and donuts.

Ruth Shapely Brown, of the CT Gravestone Network would like us to advertise at their April 6th symposium in East Hartford. Kathy Schultz, from the Winthrop Cemetery, will join Rhonda to help get the word out. Rhonda will bring posters and display a picture of the fountain to be placed in the pond. It was noted Douglas Wilson has donated a pump for the fountain.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Forristall adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Lowrey