

FOUNTAIN HILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Deep River Town Hall
June 16, 2014
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Richard Forristall called the meeting to order of the Fountain Hill Cemetery Association at 7:00 p.m.

I. **Roll Call:** Richard Forristall, Mark Lowrey, Jayne Mather, Melissa Lowrey, Rhonda Forristall, Susan Miron, Diane Brooks, Scott Nelson, Art Thompson and Martin Nadel
Absent: Angus McDonald and Matt Elgart

II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the May 19, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

III. **Guest**

Sam Fulginiti (Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home) - Green Burials

The FHCA Board of Directors is exploring green burials. Robinson, Wright & Weymer have participated in a few. Sam attended our meeting to share some information in this regard.

Green burials are hand dug. The same earth that is dug up for the burial must be put back in place. No head stones are allowed. (The Board would like to explore if footstones are acceptable.) The body is placed in a simple, biodegradable container (wood, wicker). No chemical embalming is allowed. There is green embalming that is acceptable. This allows for a public viewing a few days later. If a body is not embalmed, it may have a private viewing only. The Board thanked Sam for his assistance.

Currently there is only one cemetery in Connecticut (Danbury) offering green burials. The two other closest locations are Lancaster, Maine and Ithaca, NY. and only 30 nationwide.

The Board discussed possible locations for green burials. Scott Nelson will explore the Green Burial website and report back to the Board.

IV. **Communications**

Communications were read regarding grave locations.

V. **Chairman's Report – Richard Forristall**

Cemetery Assistant

Since the superintendent has given his notice and resigned, the current cemetery assistant has taken on much responsibility. His dedication shows through in how wonderful the cemetery is looking. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and accepted to give the assistant an increase in pay, effective June 16th. Richard will let him know tomorrow, June 17th.

FHCA Price Sheet

All lot and burial charges were reviewed and motion was made for a small increase. This was seconded and approved.

Update on Equipment

Richard reported on replacement of several tools, including a weed whacker, totaling approximately \$500. The zero-turn mower failed to start for the second week in a row. Richard called Midstate Tractor. Going forward, we may hire Midstate Tractor for annual maintenance. We will also inquire who maintains the Town equipment. Recently, Whelen Engineering generously donated a zero-turn mower with only 400 hours of use. Our current one has approximately 1300 hours. It will be very helpful to have a second mower available when one is out for repair. Also, the truck had a flat tire which has been replaced.

Russell Rankin will temporarily open and close graves for burial until a more permanent solution has been put into place.

Pet Cemetery

Two plots were sold.

VI. Financial Statement – Jayne Mather

Good news, income and expense are on budget at approximately 8%. The Wooster Chapel had \$1,000 total donations the past month, bringing the current cash balance available to \$4,868.

Jayne will meet with the Stark Agency to discuss the renewal of our insurance coverages effective July 30, 2014.

VII. Superintendent's Report – Richard Forristall

Superintendent Replacement

Discussion revolved around the role of the superintendent and a replacement. Whether the Board should accept applications and oversee responsibility and decisions for this role or if the superintendent should be employed by the Town of Deep River under their guidelines. The Board thinks the Town should be considered in this matter. Rich, Mark and Jayne will make an appointment to speak with the First Selectman. All Board members are welcome to attend.

Transitioning

The former superintendent used to monitor the cemetery phone line. Susan Miron has taken this over until more formal decisions are made.

Mark will stop by the cemetery each morning to check with the cemetery worker about gas can refills. If needed, Mark will use the cemetery gas card for purchase. The cards have been collected from the former superintendent.

Richard has ordered a first aid kit for the office.

VIII. **Committee Reports**

Wooster Chapel – Mark Lowrey

Work on the Chapel is progressing. The ceilings have been refinished and the staging has been removed. The back wall has been rebuilt and stained. Mark is working on cleaning the floors.

The next step will be to remove the doors and frame. The frame needs new trim and the doors also need repair. After this has been completed, the exterior should be 100% restored.

Mark is at the Chapel on Saturdays from 10 AM to noon if you want to stop by to see the progress.

Rhonda has started looking at lighting fixtures. She mentioned they should be a dark metal, in keeping with the original ones. The Board was in agreement.

IX. **Old Business** – no report

X. **New Business**

Beth Shalom Section – Martin Nadel

Martin has spoken with his Board regarding the expansion to this section. The construction company cannot remove stumps until a survey has been completed. Martin stated the survey will be completed this week.

The Board discussed a maintenance fee for this section. Currently, a donation is offered and accepted however, there is additional time and maintenance required. The discussion was tabled at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Forristall adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Lowrey, Secretary