

FOUNTAIN HILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Deep River Town Hall
September 15, 2014
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Richard Forristall called the meeting to order of the Fountain Hill Cemetery Association at 7:09 p.m.

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

II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the August 18, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

III. Communications

Richard met with a woman who has a plot in the back of the cemetery near the maintenance shed. Her parents are also buried there. She would like to add a stone and possibly a bench. Richard gave her the approval.

A couple requested being buried next to the frog. It is mostly ledge in that area. Richard will probe to see if we can accommodate their wishes.

Two teenagers are buried near the Zigra section. There had been a problem with the stone: it arrived cracked and had to be sent back. This issue has been resolved. The person contacted Richard stating she had previously given the former superintendent \$200 towards the burial. Our records show this was not received. The Richard will check with the treasurer. If unable to resolve, we will give this person the benefit of the doubt and see that her account is credited the \$200.

IV. Chairman's Report – Richard Forristall

Cemetery Assistant

The cemetery assistant has had his cast removed. No surgery is required. We are waiting to find out when he will start physical therapy. Also, a doctor's note will be required upon his return, stating he is able to return at full capacity.

There have been several mishaps resulting in damage to equipment. Two weed whackers were damaged due to being driven over. The tractor was found to have a crack in the hydraulic reservoir as a result of last month's accident. This will be about \$2,400 to replace.

Richard will meet with the assistant to discuss his performance. Also, Richard has asked the temporary grounds helper to work with the assistant a few days each week to help him in

becoming more familiar with equipment use. (The Board approved an increase in pay for the temporary grounds keeper.) It is not clear to the Board if enough training was given to the cemetery assistant by the former superintendent.

Equipment

The walk behind mower is in need of repair. This winter we will look to replacing this. Currently, the temporary grounds helper is using his.

MidState is doing a yearly repair on our small tractor and will bring the larger tractor in after. They told us our equipment has been used quite hard through the past years. They will also plan on coming out to review the equipment with the cemetery assistant.

V. Financial Statement – Richard Forristall

Good news, income and expense are on budget at 33%. The maintenance figure is a little high due to the recent tractor mishap a couple of months back. Russ Rankin is opening and closing the graves at an increased expense. Mark and Richard are doing cremations, which is helping to offset those expenses.

VI. Superintendent's Report – Richard Forristall

Mark and Richard are going to do some foundations this week, clean out the green shed and arrange equipment to ready for winter. Richard looked for markers in the Zigra section and was able to locate them.

The Town will plow and sand the cemetery grounds this winter after it has taken care of the town. Richard will speak with the temporary grounds keeper about putting the plow on the large tractor. Richard did put on top soil and has seeded.

The contractor we hired to trim the hedges did a terrific job over the course of one weekend. We may contact them to clean out the leaves this fall.

VII. Vice President Report – Mark Lowrey

No report

VIII. Committee Reports

Wooster Chapel

Mark has not been at the Chapel but working at home, restoring the Chapel doors and reframing. Some of the wood needed to be replaced and other parts stripped down. Mark has spoken with a millwork company for casings for the front doors.

Richard added ¾ inch stone outside to keep water from going into the foundation.

Beth Shalom

Richard met with Don Carlson who stated they are going to try to go forward with the survey.

Green Burials

Scott reported there is an annual dues of \$350 to be listed on the green burial website. There are three different degrees of green burials. The hybrid has the least amount of requirements: the family must be involved and vaults cannot be required (use of a shroud, wicker, wood are all acceptable). The restrictions increase with the different levels of green burial. The Board was in favor of the least restrictive.

Richard, Rhonda and Jayne are planning a trip to the green burial cemetery in Danbury, the only one in Connecticut at this time. All Board members are welcome to join them.

Town Newsletter

The deadline for the upcoming newsletter is September 19th. The Board would like to have several items posted: announce that three windows are still available with a donation as well as the chapel benches, the front doors should be refinished soon and announce that the Board is looking into green burials. Also mention that plots are available, with a reminder of our pet cemetery.

IX. Old Business - No report

X. New Business

Fall Walk

October 25 is the walk, with the following Saturday, November 1, as the rain date. Tim Haut is available to lead the walk. Sue and Diane will make posters and bring refreshments. The Chapel will be open and ready so visitors can see all of the progress that has been made.

FHCA Meetings

At this time, the Board will continue to meet monthly.

Bylaws Committee

Several members had previously met with the First Selectman to discuss the possibility of setting up an agreement with the town. A subcommittee will meet next week with Board members Richard, Mark, Jayne, Art and Scott to review the current bylaws.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Forristall adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Lowrey, Secretary