



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

Chairperson
Sheila Godino

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

4:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Godino called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Chairman Sheila M. Godino
Committee Member Vincent Godino
Alternate Member Martha Reynolds
Committee Member William Vidal III

Excused Alternate Member Paul Krug

Absent Committee Member Kimlyn Marshall
Committee Member Jessica Staley

Bruce Garstka, Treasurer of the Lambtown Cemetery was also present.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Martha Reynolds was appointed as an alternate.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the regular Meeting Minutes from June 13, 2023, as written.

Matha Reynolds said she doesn't receive emails anymore since she switched addresses.

ACTION ITEM: Provide Christina Hostetler, Town Hall Assistant with Ms. Reynolds new email address.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sheila M. Godino

SECONDER: Martha Reynolds

AYE 4 Godino Godino Reynolds Vidal, III

EXCUSED 1 Krug

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

V. FISCAL REPORTS

1. Fiscal Report.
\$2000.00

Chairperson Godino said there is \$2000.00 in the Cemetery budget. She added that the biggest issue currently is the four trees in the Newton Cemetery (Whalehead Road). The Cemetery caretaker believes that these trees are a hazard. Mr. Godino said he received a tree removal quote in the past. The contractor said the best way to remove the trees would be from the neighboring property. He asked the resident for permission to use their yard to cut down the trees and it was granted. The quote was for \$10,000.00. Mr. Godino said since the quote is over \$5000.00, the Committee will need to get two more quotes for a total of three. Mr. Godino said that a contractor may be going to the Cemetery next week to provide a second quote. Mr. Garstka said there are a few businesses in Ledyard that have large trucks that can do that kind of work. H&H landscaping, Rocky's and Bob Barry. He had personal experience with H&H Landscaping and was pleased with them.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. COMMITTEES

1. Flags - Ms. Godino.

Chairperson Godino didn't have the exact count but she believed that the Committee is in good shape with flags. The Committee may need to buy more but only a small amount.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Adopters - Mr. Godino.

Mr. Godino reported that the Committee is still short of two adopters (Maintown and Stoddard Hibbard). Ms. Reynolds asked if Jim Hagen adopted a cemetery. Mr. Godino replied yes that Mr. Hagen has taken on the Christopher Avery Cemetery. The other Cemeteries are all set. Ms. Reynolds mentioned that half of the wrought iron gate is missing at the Morgan Pond Cemetery (Sandy Hollow Road). Mr. Godino said that this cemetery is maintained by Groton Utilities. Ms. Reynolds volunteered to call GU.

ACTION ITEM: Contact Groton Utilities to inquire about the gate at Morgan Pond Cemetery.

Bruce Garstka introduced himself as the Treasurer of the Lambtown Cemetery and asked the Committee if they have in place or have given some thought to the idea of using a trust fund for the active cemeteries. Mr. Godino said that some of the cemeteries have trusts that they have tapped into. He referred Mr. Garstka to the Mayor and/or the Finance Director. Mr. Gartska mentioned that most of the Cemeteries are close to being full. He was concerned as time goes by there will be less interest in maintaining the cemeteries but if there is a trust set up it will protect the cemeteries in the future.

Mr. Vidal commented that he has noticed that some of the cemeteries that state they are closed are still active with recent burials.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Veterans.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. ROW - Right of Way.

Chairperson Godino reviewed a packet of information with the Committee members including state statues on Cemeteries. She referred to a portion of Sec 19a-295:

Cemeteries may be acquired, owned and managed and controlled by such towns and ecclesiastical societies, and by cemetery associations heretofore incorporated or incorporated as provided in section 19a-296, and by no other persons, firms or corporations.

Chairperson Godino said there are very few cemeteries that have right of way, approximately 6-7 of them.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Metal Medallions.

During the June meeting Jessica Staley said she could rethread the old sticks for the markers. She also said she would ask co-workers who work with metal if they have the proper tools to repair the medallions and rods that are broken. Ms. Staley wasn't present to give an update on the medallions.

Mr. Godino spoke to the High School Shop teacher about the possibility of having a mould made of the Veteran marker. The teacher said he could incorporate the veteran marker mould into his foundry class in the fall. He would use the mold as a learning example and could make 4 - 5 markers but no more. Chairman Godino said he could contact him to move forward with it.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Connections to Cemetery Book.

Agenda title should read "corrections to Cemetery book (not connections). Chairperson Godnio asked Mr. Vidal how the book was coming along. Mr. Vidal answered he has about 35 of the Cemeteries completed. Ms. Reynolds asked what exactly is being updated. He answered that he is working on redoing the list, checking information for accuracy and creating new diagrams. Ms. Reynolds mentioned that she noticed some of the cemetery directions are incorrect. Mr. Vidal said he is also improving the directions.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Any other Old Business to Come Before the Committee.

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Vote on the Cemetery Committee 2024 Calendar Year Meeting Schedule - Discussion on the possibility of adding a September meeting to the schedule.

Vote to APPROVE one of the following 2024 Calendar schedules:

February 13, April 9, June 11, October 8

OR

February 13, April 9, June 11, September 10, October 8

Chairman Godino presented the idea of adding a September meeting to the 2024 calendar. She said the summer is very hot to work outside and there is a large gap between June and October, one solution is to add a September meeting. Everyone agreed that it was a good idea.

Motion to APPROVE the Cemetery Committee 2024 meeting calendar with the addition of September (February 13, April 9, June 11, September 10, and October 8).

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Sheila M. Godino

SECONDER: William Vidal, III

AYE 4 Godino Godino Reynolds Vidal, III

EXCUSED 1 Krug

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

2. Any other New Business to Come Before the Committee.

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 5:56 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Vincent Godino

SECONDER: William Vidal, III

AYE 4 Godino Godino Reynolds Vidal, III

EXCUSED 1 Krug

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

Next Meeting - February 13, 2024.

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.