



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

Chairperson
Sheila Godino

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

4:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson, William Vidal at 4:02 p.m.

Due to technical difficulties the meeting was not recorded.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Alternate Member Vincent Godino
 Alternate Member Paul Krug
 Committee Member William Vidal III
Absent Committee Member Kimlyn Marshall
 Committee Member Jessica Staley
 Committee Member Martha Reynolds

Also in attendance:
Naomi Rodriguez, Town Councilor
Kristie Lundgren, Resident.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Paul Krug was appointed as a voting member.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Special Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2024, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Vincent Godino

SECONDER: Paul Krug

AYE 3 Godino Krug Vidal, III

EXCUSED 1 Godino

ABSENT 3 Marshall Staley Reynolds

V. FISCAL REPORTS

1. Fiscal Report.

Opening balance; \$2,000.00. The Committee should make suggestions on how to use the remaining balance.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VI. COMMITTEES**1. Flags.**

The flagging procedures have been taken over by Ms. Reynolds. She has bundled the appropriate number of flags for each Committee member to place in their respective cemeteries. The Committee members in attendance will secure them from Mr. Godino at the conclusion of the meeting.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Adopters - Mr. Godino.

The Committee has gained a new adopter to assist in the maintenance of the cemeteries. The Lions Club will care for the Hibbard Stoddard Cemetery. Our current meeting attendee, Ms. Lundgren, will maintain the Robert Stoddard Cemetery. Mr. Godino noted the Main Town Cemetery near the end of Route 214, which is a bit larger and has not been maintained for almost two years, is still available for adoption. Mr. Godino will continue to look for additional adopters.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Veterans.

Mr. Vidal reiterated the use of online resources to confirm and update the Committee's current list of Veterans. Mr. Godino passed along Mrs. Reynolds' suggestion of providing preaddressed postcards to the sextants to make it easier to receive updated information if they were willing to do so. Mrs. Lundgren suggested the use of library resources.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VII. OLD BUSINESS**1. ROW - Right of Way continued.**

Mr. Vidal noted that the right of way access to Bailey Cemetery from Route 117 was overgrown and not accessible. The resident was more than agreeable to allow the Committee to gain access from his yard. However, the discussion led to who is responsible for maintaining the access way. The responsibility is believed to be on the property owner, but Mr. Godino suggested to the Committee to think about a way to save remaining yearly funds in an account strictly for usage of smaller projects such as this. Another option, is it possible for the current account to maintain a running tally of unused funds?

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Metal Medallions continued.

Mr. Godino will provide an updated inventory of the current markers the Committee has once the flagging of the large cemeteries is completed. Based on the inventory numbers, the Committee discussed purchasing a few along with the flags.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Cemetery Book update.

This project is still ongoing. Mr. Vidal was able to visit several more cemeteries with the information provided by Mr. Godino. He reported progress towards completion but there are still several cemeteries to be visited, remapped, and updated with current markers, directions, GPS locations, etc.

Mr. Godino will ask Ms. Godino about the cover illustrator and for some insight as to how to proceed. Mr. Vidal wondered if there was a Committee logo that could be used. The committee is quite partial to using the current illustration if possible.

Mr. Vidal requested information on access to the Cemetery committee website to make changes to the posted listings. Mr. Godino suggested starting with the Mayor's Assistant. Mr. Vidal will follow up with her to gain access.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Committee Position Fulfillment -
Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson

Vote for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Position.

The position is currently being filled by Mr. Vidal. The Committee decided to table this vote until the next meeting when more members are available.

Flagging - as discussed earlier, these duties have been assumed by Ms. Reynolds.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

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

None.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

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

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month. Naomi Rodriguez, Town Council was present to express the Town's appreciation for the volunteer service the Cemetery Committee was providing. It was noted there are over 200 volunteers across the many Committees, Commissions, and Boards that support the Town in many ways.

As done last year, the Committee discussed setting the first date for flagging the two large cemeteries and postponing it to the following week in case of inclement weather. This pattern will be repeated until the flagging is completed. It was decided to start the flagging on May 4th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The Committee will meet at and begin with the Avery Stoddard Cemetery

then travel to the Gales Ferry Cemetery. Mr. Godino will remind Ms. Staley to request the presence of the Boy Scouts and any other groups available to volunteer. With the additional help, the anticipated time to completion would be less than three hours.

Mr. Godino was notified by Steve Masalin, Public Works Director, of a large dead ash tree and additional overhanging limbs that could cause potential damage to the cemetery if they were to fall. Mr. Godino noted he received a quote from H&H Landscaping for approximately \$2000.00 for the removal of the dead tree and limbs due to the size of the tree and their proximity to the Cemetery.

Motion to ACCEPT and award the job to H&H Landscaping for the removal of the dead ash tree and limbs from the Roach Cemetery at the cost of \$2000.00.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: William Vidal, III

SECONDER: Paul Krug

AYE 3 Godino Krug Vidal, III

EXCUSED 1 Godino

ABSENT 3 Marshall Staley Reynolds

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 4:54 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: William Vidal, III

SECONDER: Paul Krug

AYE 3 Godino Krug Vidal, III

EXCUSED 1 Godino

ABSENT 3 Marshall Staley Reynolds

The next Committee meeting is on June 11, 2024.

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