



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

4:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid Format

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Vidal at 4:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Committee Member Martha Reynolds
 Alternate Member Paul Krug
 Committee Member William Vidal III
 Committee Member Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren

Excused Alternate Member Vincent Godino

Absent Committee Member Kimlyn Marshall
 Committee Member Jessica Staley

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Not needed.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE the Regular Meeting minutes from June 11, 2024, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Martha Reynolds

SECONDER: Kristie Gardiner-Lundgren

AYE 4 Reynolds Krug Vidal, III Gardiner-Lundgren

EXCUSED 1 Godino

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

V. FISCAL REPORT

1. Fiscal Report.

New Fiscal year, the opening balance is \$2000.00.

VI. COMMITTEES

1. Flags.

The Committee will need to purchase flags this year after an inventory is taken. Chairman Vidal said usually the Committee tries to have 700-720 flags on hand for flagging season. Ms. Reynolds has the flags and will take an inventory. The flags are placed at several cemeteries in Town. Flagging at the larger cemeteries is done as a group, the smaller cemeteries are done individually. The flags should have sleeves and a long post. Need to look at what fabric was ordered in the past.

Number of Veterans:

Gallup Hill has 45

Lambtown Road has 46

Ledyard Center has 37

Maintown has 2.

Medallion inventory needs to be taken as well. Ms. Reynolds said there are only a few of the nice ones and about 15 of the plastic ones. Ms. Reynolds will be contacting Mr. Godino for information the vendor used and confirming the specific requirements requested by Mr. Krug.

2. Adopters - Mr. Godino.

Mr. Godino wasn't present for this meeting.

Chairman Vidal believes that the only cemetery without an adopter is Maintown. Mr. Godino may have someone who is interested in adopting. Ms. Reynolds said she was supposed to talk with Jason Mancini but hasn't yet. Ms. Lundgren has agreed to maintain the Main Town Cemetery near the end of Route 214 until another adopter can be found.

Chris Krol a representative from the Ledyard VFW post 4608 joined the meeting via Zoom at 4:23. He had a question on the Williams Williams Cemetery which the VFW upkeep. He wanted to know if there is funding for upkeep since some of the fence posts are falling due to deterioration. The VFW propped some of the posts up with rocks for a temporary fix, but the posts need replacing. The VFW will do the maintenance but wanted to know if there is funding for the materials or if they're expected to pay for materials since they are the adopters. Chairman Vidal answered that first it needs to be determined if there is a trust associated with that cemetery. If there isn't a trust, then the Committee will find a resolution to this issue. Chairman Vidal took Mr. Krol's contact number and said he would let him know what he finds out. Mr. Krol thanked him for his time.

3. Veterans.

Ms. Reynolds said she was asked by Ms. Godino to clip Veteran's obituaries out of the newspaper, but she said that she doesn't regularly read the paper and there must be another way to accomplish this. Ms. Reynolds suggested asking the Sextons of the three main cemeteries to give a post card to families of Veterans to ask if they would want them to be represented. The Committee agreed on providing pre-addressed postcards that sextants may give to families if they'd like to have the Committee provide flags for their Veterans. Ms. Reynolds said she needs the Sexton contact for Hurlbutt. She added that she would also like the adopter contact for

Lambtown since there is a lot of Veterans there. Mrs. Reynolds will move forward with contacting the sextants of the town's major active cemeteries in order to receive updated information on Veteran graves.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. ROW - Right of Way continued.

Ms. Lundgren asked to explain the Right of Way (ROW). Chairman Vidal said there are several cemeteries that the Commission doesn't have a legal right of way access to. For example, there is a small cemetery with no ROW on Route 117 near Sablewood Drive. Ms. Reynolds said the Christopher Avery Cemetery near Avery Hill Road and Oak Hill Trail has two large trees on the ending of the ROW. Upon closer inspection by Ms. Reynolds, it's speculated this may be intentional by the homeowner to deter vehicles from trespassing. Ms. Reynolds spoke to a man on the property who was very helpful and agreed to maintenance the area. The tree trunks are still present, and committee will continue to offer to help clear the path.

2. Cemetery Book update.

While the project is still ongoing, Chairman Vidal reported it is close to completion. He added that each page has been updated with locations of the monuments, headstones and name listings, maps. He said his last task is creating a full (fold out map). There is a Veteran index in the back of the book. GPS coordinates were also added. Once completed the book will be printed and information will be added to the Town website. Maintaining the book shouldn't be difficult since there are only four active cemeteries.

3. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Committee.

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Social Media interest.

Mrs. Lundgren suggested the creation of a social media page on Facebook so the general public may have easier access to the Committee and public events. If the Committee ever wants to host a cleanup it would be helpful to post the event on Facebook. The Committee could also post flagging events. Members agreed and Mrs. Lundgren will begin working on the page to then be approved by the Committee before publishing.

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

Ms. Reynolds has observed a newer stone located at Johnny Cake Hill Cemetery, possibly of a Veteran.

Ms. Reynolds, after assuming flag duty responsibilities, was given several medallions she noticed were not belonging to Ledyard. After much research and investigation, they were gratefully accepted by the Veterans Rally Point in Norwich, CT.

Ms. Lundgren suggested that Committee members exchange contact information to better communicate organize work parties, answer questions, share information, etc... Members agreed and will share their information via email.

Mr. Vidal was contacted by Robert Dean who located a misplaced gravestone and would like it returned to its correct resting place. The stone belongs to Ms. Hannah Scadaub. Through the man’s research, he believes it should be placed in the Mashantucket Cemetery. Mr. Vidal and Mr. Godino will follow up with him and provide more information as the situation evolves.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 5:13 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Martha Reynolds

SECONDER: Paul Krug

AYE 4 Reynolds Krug Vidal, III Gardiner-Lundgren

EXCUSED 1 Godino

ABSENT 2 Marshall Staley

The next Committee meeting is on October 8, 2024.

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