

**Minutes of 9/18/2024 Cemetery Commission
6 P.M.
Approved at the Meeting of 10/23/2024**

Members present: Walter Tibbetts (WT), Dina Stander (DS) and Susan Millinger (SM). No guests were present.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m.

1) Minutes of the August 28, 2024 meeting: Motion to approve these minutes as amended was made, seconded and unanimously passed by a roll call vote.

2) No New burials, one lot sale:

a. A new lot sale to Janis Gray.

b. DS met with Ed Smith, an Amherst resident who is interested in a green burial plot. WT has been unable to contact him. The Commission approved his request because of his Shutesbury connections. Smith wants his family to be able to dig the hole. WT says we need to contact the Town Counsel to find out what liability issues there would be. A green burial needs to be no more than 3 ½ to 4' below the surface, because microbial activity stops below that level. He will need to meet with WT to choose a plot.

3) Groundskeeper Update:

a. Dealing with the maple WT and Carl Lounder have been worried about. The DPW hired a small tree company to deal with some trees. As well as cutting the problem maple, the company also took a lot of brush off the stone wall running back to the school. Carl continues to work with brush.

b. Carl needs clarification about the DPW's use of Cemetery Commission equipment: he was concerned when they borrowed a mower. WT told him that for budgetary purposes, the Cemetery Commission's groundskeepers' contracts say they work under the DPW.

c. WT will check that Carl is texted when someone from DPW needs to use our equipment, hopefully by the head of DPW.

4) Update on ground penetrating radar and mapping project:

a. Thomas Cunningham called WT and WT was able to correct some continuing mistakes. He received the maps WT had sent containing the south side sites identified for ground penetrating radar, and has a better understanding of our project.

- b. TC has kept the price that Bob Perry quoted. WT asked how he would be able to do this, working from Texas. He's planning to look at a number of cemeteries while he is here, and split the costs among there,
- c. Cunningham's firm, C&M Subsurface, does scanning, but we were informed that his experience with cemetery mapping is limited. There was talk of him subcontracting that part of the work, but C&M Subsurface will do all the work.
- d. *A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote to accept Cunningham's proposal.*
- e. WT will sign the agreement and get a clear settling day and day of closing.

5) Update on *Gravestone Restoration Project*:

- a. WT has communicated with Ta'Mara. She is very busy with an Ohio project. She has been able to pop in and do a few things. Most of what remains are broken stones that need new bases. She will be giving us a higher priority for this work: mortar work needs mild nights to set, and we will not have many more mild nights.
- b. SM has been asked to check the timeline for an application for the Community Preservation Grants; we would like to apply for a grant for the second stage of Ta'Mara's project.

6) *Other Unfinished Business*: none

7) *New Business*: none

8) *Items not anticipated 48 hours before the meeting*: none

9) *Date and time for the Next Meeting*: October 23 at 6 p.m.

10) *Adjournment*: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously approved in a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Submitted by
Susan Millinger,
Cemetery Commission secretary