

MINUTES OF THE NORWICH CEMETERY COMMISSION

October 3rd, 2023

Members Present: Dan Goulet, Wilbert "Scooter" Hardy, Emily Myers and Bonnie Munday. Guests present: Donna Wheeler and Jayne Keller

1.) The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m in the Norwich Congregational Church Parlor room.

2.) Hemlock Road closing and how this affects Waterman Hill Cemetery

Hemlock Road, located off Route 5, has been closed since July 20, 2023, for the foreseeable future due to an imminent threat of a significant slope failure. If there is a need to build a temporary/new road for residence to gain access to their homes on Hemlock Road, the Commission will need to investigate how this new road will impact Waterman Hill Cemetery.

3.) Update from Aiden Powell on fence repair at Fairview Cemetery.

Aiden reported via email that he encountered a much larger issue than obtaining a letter of certificate of insurance. Per Boy Scouts of America rules, minors are not allowed to operate heavy power tools. He was unaware of this before and therefore it is infeasible for he and other Boy Scouts to do the work fixing the fence as planned. Unfortunately he does not believe the project can be completed.

4.) Other business:

a.) Beaver Meadow Cemetery (BMC) and Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA).

Emily Myers, Donna Wheeler and Jayne Keller met with Nicole Vecchi from the VOCA at the BMC last month. Nichole connected Emily with contacts from the VOCA and surveyed the cemetery work that needed to be accomplished such as headstone cleaning and repair. Nichole has been working with Jayne on a voluntary basis with respect to headstone cleaning. The Commission will coordinate more times and locations for other volunteers to learn how to properly clean headstones. Additionally, the VOCA will conduct a workshop at BMC on May 25th, 2024 to instruct the Commission and volunteers how to properly repair broken headstones. The Commission will submit a Grant request to VOCA this fall to help with the cost of future repairs.

b.) Cemetery Commission Bylaws and Rules and Regulations.

The Commission has written drafts of its first official By-laws and Rules and Regulations. Once finalized these documents will be posted on the town's website.

7.) Expected next meeting at end of October 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily P. Myers, Cemetery Commission member