

DRAFT

RIDGEFIELD GRAVEYARD RESTORATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 18, 2024 6 PM RIDGEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENT: Sara Champion, Michael Harrington, Susan Kveskin, Susan Law, Tom McManus, Nancy Selander, Sarah Slavin, Joel Third.

GUEST: Kevin Claesgens

Chair Nancy Selander called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

MINUTES: The September 16, 2024 Minutes were approved by all but Tom McManus who abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tom reported that plot sales at Mapleshade are slowly improving. The older area of that cemetery needs to be remapped to accommodate the larger size of the outer vault. Also, the paper deeds should be redesigned to allow more space for writing in specifications. Tom also suggested we consider increasing the pricing to better reflect other cemeteries in the area and our increase in expenditures.

SEXTON'S REPORT: Bill Bunkoci and Nancy met with a family who were unhappy with the removal of the pachysandra from their plot location. Tom stated that that ground cover is damaging to nearby trees and objects to allowing it in the cemetery. After a discussion it was agreed that Tom, Nancy and a Town official would meet to come to a decision.

REPORT ON CEMETERIES: Tom reported the pocket cemeteries are in good shape. The Seymour Cemetery on South Olmstead Lane has a fallen tombstone caused by the growth of a nearby tree. He questioned if we should do something to restore the site of the "Old Episcopal Mission Church" cemetery site located at the triangle site on Ridgebury Rd., Ned's Mountain Rd. and an abandoned third roadway. Apparently, this cemetery was "removed" around 1874.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Over 725 tombstones in Branchville Cemetery have been recorded by Sarah S. and Susan L. They will be entered into the Historical Society's data base by Nancy and an intern soon. The last area located in the southwest section will be recorded in the spring. There is no record of any written sectional plan for this cemetery and this needs to be done. It was suggested that a professional be employed to do this due to the irregularity of the graves' layout. A camera is needed to complete the pictorial data of the graves.
2. A final report of the three portions of the Thrift Shop Grant needs to be submitted. Receipts are requested to complete this.
3. The use of D2 on the tombstones in the large triangle off 116, North St. and Mapleshade Rd. should be limited to the very old stones located mostly in Olde Town as there are few if any family members who "own" the tombstones, unlike the newer areas where family members, the owners of these stones, may be actively involved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Susan K. offered to serve as Vice Chair. Election followed: Nancy Selander, Chair; Susan Kweskin, Vice Chair; Tom McManus, Treasurer; and Susan Law, Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sara C. noted that the Cannon Ridge Chapter, D.A.R. requested permission to lay wreaths at the entrances of Ridgebury and Mapleshade Cemeteries this December. Unanimously approved.
2. There is no further information regarding the repair of the entrance pillar of the Mapleshade Cemetery by the Town's Highway Department.
3. The next meeting will be January 27, 2024, 6 PM at the Ridgefield Historical Society.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM

Susan Law, Recorder