

APPROVED

RIDGEFIELD GRAVEYARD RESTORATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 27, 2025 6 PM RIDGEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

EXCUSED: Sara Champion, Susan Kweskin

GUEST: Kevin Claesgens

Chair Nancy Selander called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

MINUTES: The November 18, 2024 minutes were approved by all but Tom McManus who abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tom reported that financially things are in good shape. Next year's Town budget will probably be the same for the Committee. Landscaping expenses will probably increase as the cost of hiring and equipment continue to rise. Application for a \$5,000 State grant is being worked on.

SEXTON'S REPORT: Nancy has spoken to Bill Bunkoci about the increase in the size of burial vaults and he agreed to research this issue. The unsold plots in the earlier designed areas of Mapleshade are probably too small to accommodate the currently used vaults, thus skewing the necessary plot sizes. Re-working the plot sizes in that area will most likely need to be done before any are sold. Tom Keane noted that a grave marker was removed from Ridgebury Cemetery as the family wanted to move it to another cemetery and sell back the original plot. Wendy Leonetti, Town Clerk, stated that the new deed was to state the family was the grantor and the Town would be the grantee. The issue of poor water drainage in Ridgebury Cemetery was discussed. This condition is a serious concern and renders portions of the cemetery flooded during heavy rainfall. It was decided to speak to the Town officials soon before the planned work on Ridgebury Rd. commences. Kevin, as a nearby resident, agreed to bring this issue up when he meets with the Board of Selectmen in mid-February at his Confirmation Hearing.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Nancy circulated the revised paper deed for Cemetery plot sales was approved by all but Tom McManus who opposed.
2. Whether or not to increase the price of plots was tabled due to lack of information. Michael agreed to gather current prices from cemeteries in the near vicinity to present to the Committee members.
3. The 2024 Thrift Shop grant paperwork has been completed. Plantings, which were delay in the fall due to the drought condition, will be purchased and planted in early spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2025 meeting dates were agreed upon. They are March 17, May 19, September 15, and November 17. All are scheduled to begin at 6PM.
2. Nancy was given a copy of a New York Times article about letting nature take it's course in cemetery care. She will get it reproduced to share with all.
3. The 48 State Tour project was not discussed as the deadline for submission is January 28. Nancy stated that Ruth Brown has visited our cemeteries several times discussing various aspects with regards to care and maintenance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Susan Law, Recorder