

DRAFT

RIDGEFIELD GRAVEYARD RESTORATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 6 PM RIDGEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENT: Mike Harrington, Susan Kveskin, Susan Law, Nancy Selander, Sarah Slavin, Joel Third

EXCUSED: Sara Champion, George Hancock, Tom McManus

Our invited guest, Stephen Bartkus from the Ridgefield Historical Society was not present due to illness.

Nancy Selander called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

Minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: None given as Tom McManus not in attendance.

Liaison with the sexton's report: Nothing to report.....all the cemeteries appear to be in good shape.

Old Business: It was decided to hold the next Cemetery Tour in April, 2024. The topics being researched are the victims of the Spanish Influenza Outbreak in 1918 – 1920, and other notables and/or interesting folks from approximately the same era. Some names will be people we have included in other tours.

New Business:

1. Invoice Approval Procedure was re-assigned to the November meeting as our Treasurer was unable to attend this meeting.
2. Susan Kveskin reported a very productive meeting with Stephen Bartkus and her article on Elijah Weed, who is buried in Ridgebury Cemetery, will appear in the next Historical Society's eblast. Hopefully more interesting stories of the deceased will also be shared. The small tombstone of another Weed family member, young Annie, was also discussed. This stone was salvaged with some housing rubble years ago and has stood at the rear entrance of the Historical Society. Susan Law determined, through land records, that most likely her family had moved away from Ridgefield sometime after Annie's death. Genealogical records show that Elijah Weed was her first cousin and perhaps her tombstone should be installed in that Weed family plot in Ridgebury Cemetery. Nancy Selander will discuss this with the Historical Society and possibly plan this change.
3. Fall Clean-up dates are Saturday, November 4th, rain date Sunday the 5th.
4. The next Committee meeting will be one week earlier, Monday, November 13th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
5. The new trees/bushes planted in May are doing well and the rainy summer has helped with the watering schedule.
6. Sarah Slavin and Susan Law are making progress recording the tombstones in Branchville cemetery. Nancy Selander will inquire regarding a camera to use that will be compatible with the Historical Society's computer system where all this data is stored.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM

Susan Law, Recorder

