

Regular Meeting of the Cemetery Commission
Monday November 14, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
Bristol Historical Society, 98 Summer Street, Bristol, CT 06010

ATTENDEES: Chairman Michael Saman
Commissioner Linda Arbesman
Commissioner Nicole LaPorte (Zoom)
Commissioner Thomas LaPorte
Commissioner Stanley Piotrowski

ABSENT: Council Member Panioto

1. Call to Order

Chairman Saman called the meeting to order at 5:47 pm.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Piotrowski to accept the October 3, 2022 meeting minutes as written.

Seconded by Commissioner Arbesman.

All in favor; motion passed

4. Old Business by Commissioners

- Final Results of the Lantern Tour at West Cemetery
 - Chairman Saman stated that Ellen Zoppo sent some pictures from the tours and that West Cemetery Association is meeting in December so he will mention to them that the Cemetery Commission is interested in having tours next year. Commissioner Nicole LaPorte stated that many of the volunteers from this year have expressed interest in participating next year.
- Grace stones in Mine Brook - Pending
 - As of right now, there is no update and Chairman Saman has not heard from Steve Vastola. The Commission briefly discussed vendors who may have the capacity to move the stones.
- Vandalism at one of Bristol's Historic Cemeteries – Downs
 - The fence has not been replaced/repared yet but the tree has been taken down. It appears that there has been activity in the Cemetery. The Commission discussed possibly pursuing cameras.

5. New Business by Commissioners

- Wreaths Across America – Date is Saturday December 17 at Lewis Street Cemetery @ 12 Noon.

- The Bristol Press was told about the event but they have not contacted DAR yet. Chairman Saman will forward the contact information to everyone involved. Commissioner Arbesman reviewed the itinerary for the event and the gravesites that will be included outside of Lewis Street Cemetery.
- Civil War Monument in West Cemetery. Conservation needs. State Historic Register.
 - The Mayor has expressed interest in meeting with the Commission and City Council to get the ball rolling on this project. Board of Finance Chairman John Smith has been working with the contractors who are doing the City Hall renovations to remove and transport the eagle from West Cemetery to Christoph's.
- Lawn Maintenance at the four Historic Grave areas in Bristol.
 - The lawn looks good at Lewis Street Cemetery but brush removal has been a consistent issue. Additionally, the flag is tattered and needs to be replaced.
- Schall & Staub Enterprises working on the "Iron Fence" grave site at North Cemetery.
 - Chairman Saman stated that he spoke with Christoph and it will be difficult to preserve the fence with the epoxy this time of year. It takes several weeks to cure and there haven't been ideal weather conditions for that. The Commission decided that the repairs can wait until Spring. Chairman Saman also stated that Dawn Leger of the Economic and Community Development Department has grants available that could be used towards the fence repairs.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Thomas LaPorte to pay Christoph of Schall & Staub Enterprises \$2,000 out of the available fence grant for the repairs that have already been completed.

Seconded by Commissioner Arbesman
All in favor; motion passed

- Working on software for locating gravestones at North Cemetery.
 - No updates.
- QR Codes on selected cemetery stones.
 - No updates.
- 2023 Symposium.
 - Commissioner Thomas LaPorte has been in communication with Ruth Brown. As of right now the Commission is planning to have the Symposium on March 11, 2023 from 10am-3pm. Commissioner Thomas LaPorte will continue to update the Commission on a monthly basis.

6. Any other business proper to come before the Meeting
None

7. Adjournment.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Thomas LaPorte to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 pm.

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Arbesman.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mike Saman, Chairman