

Regular Meeting of the Cemetery Commission
Monday June 13, 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
Commissioner Thomas Laporte
Council Member Panioto
Commissioner Stanley Piotrowski

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Saman called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Piotrowski to accept the May 9, 2022 meeting minutes as written.

Seconded by Commissioner Thomas LaPorte.

Commissioner Arbesman asked that the May minutes be corrected to state that in regards to Wreaths Across America, extra wreaths will be reserved for next year and no other cemeteries will be involved. The date for Wreaths Across America is Saturday December 17, 2022 at noon.

All in favor; motion passed

4. Old Business by Commissioners

- Grave stones in Mine Brook.
 - No updates.
- Wreaths across America – Saturday December 17, 2022.
 - To start at 12:00 Noon
 - Cars can park at the nearby church parking lot.

Council Member Panioto joined the meeting at 6:17pm.

5. New Business by Commissioners

- Continue the discussion of the Civil War Monument in West Cemetery. Conservation needs. State Historic Register.

- Chairman Saman has not received any updates from Matt Warshauer. Mr. Warshauer had mentioned to the Commission that work should begin this summer. Chairman Saman and Council Member Panioto are actively reaching out to Mr. Warshauer to get the process going. The Commission also discussed reaching out to other vendors to get quotes. Christoph may know someone who could perform the work.
- Schall & Staub Enterprises now working on the Iron Fence at North Cemetery.
 - Christoph is working on the fence. Some of the concrete and steel was falling apart. The repairs for the fence were approved at a previous Cemetery Commission meeting and Christoph's repairs will be more extensive and the new quote does not exceed the funds that have already been allocated to the project. No new votes are necessary. Chairman Saman has retrieved the gate from Pepin Steel.
- The two gravestones leaning over inside the fence have been repaired.
 - Christoph has completed the work but has not received the check yet. The recording secretary will be asking Jodi McGrane in the Comptroller's office if the check has been processed yet.
- Lawn Maintenance at the four Historic Grave areas in Bristol.
 - Lawn maintenance is not getting completed regularly at several Bristol cemeteries. The Commission agrees that leaf removal should be incorporated into the regular maintenance. The Commission may look into hiring another vendor to take over the responsibility.
- Vandalism at Bristol Historic Cemeteries.
 - Chairman Saman sent several photos to the Commission regarding recent vandalism at Downs Cemetery. The fence was broken, stones were knocked over, and a candle was left on one of the stones. Council Member Panioto is checking with the Mayor and Corporation Council to see if there is any type of insurance for Bristol Cemeteries. Chairman Saman will reach out to Christoph to get a quote for the damages to the stones and Commissioner Thomas LaPorte will reach out to Eagle Fence to get a quote for the fence repairs. Separately, there is a tree that looks like it needs to be taken down and Chairman Saman will contact Public Works about removing it. The Commission discussed bringing the vandalism to the Police Department and the Bristol Press to hold the vandals accountable and possibly raise funds to cover the damage.
- Work on Software for locating gravestones at North Cemetery.
 - No updates. Chairman Saman is still working on the software.
- QR Codes on selected cemetery stones.
 - No Updates.
- Lantern Tour at West Cemetery. We have reserved 4 dates at the Barnes Chapel. We have reserved Oct 7, 8, 14, & 15. Basically we plan early and we have 'rain dates'. This will still keep us in the Mum Festival event calendar.
 - This item will be the first item under new business on the Monday July 11, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Nicole LaPorte provided an update to the Commission on the status of the Lantern Tour. There will be paid actors and three tour guides who will also be actors. Commissioner Nicole LaPorte gave an overview of which gravesites will be visited. Tours should be under an hour and will leave the Chapel area every 20 minutes starting at 6 pm. Commissioner Nicole LaPorte also asked that the Chapel be reserved for 9/30, 10/1, and 10/8 as a rain date. The expected number of attendees for each tour and the cost for tickets was discussed. The Commission also discussed having the actors participate in the Mum Festival Parade.

6. Any other business proper to come before the Meeting

- Chairman Saman showed Commissioners a photo of a grave stone in Downs St Cemetery that belongs to the great - - great grandmother of Winston Churchill, - Abigailey.

7. Adjournment.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Piotrowski to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 pm.

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Arbesman.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mike Saman, Chairman