GRAND ISLE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES (corrected)

April 9, 2024, 4:30 p.m., Grand Isle Town Office

Meeting was called to order by Valerie Hunter, Chair, at 4:31 p.m.

Commissioners present: Brian Allen, Lucille Campbell, Valerie Hunter, Sue Lawrence, Suzanne Sauvé.

No additions or deletions to the agenda.

Brian moved to approve the minutes of March 12, 2024. Sue Lawrence seconded. Passed with all in favor.

Administrative report: Sue Lawrence

Financial report - balance sheet and budget status reports from Melissa Boutin. Sue noted that $25 had been attributed to grave opening revenue but should have been included in cornerstones revenue instead.

Melissa has asked M&T/LPL for monthly reports on the stocks, but no response from M&T/LPL yet.

No bills received.

Cemetery as a bordering property received notification of the anaerobic digester project on Savage View Farm (Dwight Bullis). No signatures from Cemetery Commission are needed.

Lawn care bills - none. Ronnie Bushway has begun spring cleanup. One issue with wreath removal at the cemetery. Sue advised the person to contact Ronnie Bushway.

Tractor repair invoice: C & C Repair has submitted a revised invoice for $908.06. Brian moved to pay $908.06. Sue Lawrence seconded. Passed, all in favor. Payment will be from the Money Market account.

Lot sales/Burials – none

Green burial request:

Sue Lawrence has talked to Ruby Perry and received emails from her. Ruby’s preference is to have 2 green burials in an existing family lot in Grand Isle Village Cemetery. She has refused the option of using an open-bottom vault and does not want to use North Hero’s Hazen Westview Cemetery which has a designated natural burial section. Ruby also wants Grand Isle and South Hero Cemetery Commissioners to meet with Lee Webster (green burial expert) to discuss the green burial process. Consensus was that we see no need for a meeting with Lee Webster. Lucille reported on which Vermont cemeteries allow green/natural burial and the regulations in place at those cemeteries. Lucille also noted requirements for adding green burial sites to existing cemeteries. Extensive discussion ensued. While we understand Ruby Perry’s wish to be buried in Grand Isle, the following issues were raised:

Past decision of the Grand Isle Cemetery Commission not to pursue a green burial option at Grand Isle Village Cemetery because North Hero’s Hazen Westview Cemetery had a new green burial section.

Size of lots recommended for green/natural burials is larger than existing lots in the cemetery. Grand Isle Village Cemetery’s unused section is too small. No other land is available for an additional cemetery.

Soil in the Cemetery has too much clay and areas are too wet to drain well.

Ground penetrating radar project in Section B failed because of dense soils.

Engineering studies would probably be needed. Cost is not supported by the Commission’s budget.

The lawn mowing crew should not be expected to do the care and maintenance of a green burial section.

The cemetery is closed Dec. 1 to May 1 – no winter burials.

Sue Lawrence moved to draft a letter to Ruby Perry stating the decision that the Grand Isle Cemetery Commissioners respectfully decline having green burials in the Grand Isle Village Cemetery. Brian seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Sue and Lucille will draft a letter to share with the commissioners for comments before sending on Cemetery letterhead to Ruby Perry.

Revision of Cemetery Rules – tabled until May meeting when regulation regarding green burials will be added.

Vault repair – Pete Chappelow from Half Moon Stone Works will submit a quote soon.

New fence section – have not heard from Matt Sears of Sunset Fence yet. Lucille will contact him again.

Brian moved to adjourn the meeting. Sue seconded. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. Next meeting May 14, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille Campbell, Recording Secretary