GRAND ISLE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 14 2024, 4:30 p.m., Grand Isle Town Office

Meeting was called to order by Valerie Hunter, Chair, at 4:33 p.m.

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

Additions to the agenda: Sue added cornerstone prices; Brian added tractor/mower sale.

Brian moved to accept the minutes of April 9, 2024 with revisions. Sue Lawrence seconded. Passed with all in favor.

Administrative report: Sue Lawrence

Financial Report: negative balance will be taken from fund balance.

Lawn Care: no bills

Burial/Lot sales: no sales.

A bill for $190 for 4 cornerstones was received from Mr. Pepin. The previous cost had been $175 for 4 cornerstones. Val will check with Champlain Monuments for their price. We will discuss raising the cost of 4 cornerstones installed at the next meeting.

CD renewal with M&T Bank: The renewal date for the $100,000 CD is the end of May. Sue moved to roll over the CD. Brian seconded. All in favor. Val will sign the form for Melissa.

Vault: A quote of $2,700 for Interior repairs on the vault was received from Half Moon Stone Works. Lucille moved to accept the quote, Sue seconded. Passed, all in favor. Lucille will let Peter Chappelow know we accepted the proposal.

Fence: Matt Sears is willing to do the new section and will make a site visit in May.

Flags:

2 Canadian flags were purchased from Flag and Stove Works in Williston at $8.00 each. Discussion about ordering a quantity of 10-20 on-line if the cost is less.

Flag and Stove Works will sell American flags in bulk (a gross or more) at $1.75 each. The Essex VFW purchased 260 flags for us this year but feel they cannot absorb the cost much longer. Brian moved to donate $500.00 to the Essex VFW for this year’s flags. Sue seconded. Passed, all in favor. Consensus was to ask Melissa to add a line item “Flags and Standards” so the cost can be included in the budget in the coming years. We will check on-line prices for American, Canadian, and Australian flags next year. Flags can be stored in plastic totes in the vault after the interior work is done.

Volunteers to place flags on May 18: 13 have responded to the request.

Response to request for green burial in Grand Isle Village Cemetery:

All Commissioners received the request from Ruby Perry that the Cemetery Commission reconsider the decision to deny green burials. Discussion followed as to how to reply to her. Lucille discussed her conversations with several other Vermont cemetery commissioners about why they do not allow green burials. Milton, VT cemetery representatives met with Patrick Healy about the process and decided that they could not allow green burials for the same reasons Grand Isle has stated.

Suzanne talked by phone with Frank Dattilio, North Hero Cemetery Commissioner, to discuss their green burial site. He said that they set aside a section of North Hero’s new cemetery for green burials; those burials cannot be intermixed with traditional burials; it took a year to do the paperwork involved; burials must be made in consecutive order; burials in the winter are difficult; and the soil must drain well. His recommendation was that Grand Isle not have green burials.

Consensus of Grand Isle Commissioners was that the decision to deny the green burials was final. The Commission will respond to Ruby to tell her that we considered her second request, we did further research, and that the original decision stands. Lucille will draft the response and send it to the Commissioners for final approval.

Revision of Rules and Regulations: Sue moved to put “No green burials” in the Rules and Regulations. Suzanne seconded. Motion passed with all in favor. Further discussion of other possible revisions will be done at the next meeting.

Tractor/mower/wagon: Brian sold the equipment for $300 immediately after the notice was published. He had to deliver it and was given $20 for that, which he donated to the Cemetery. The proceeds will be noted in “Miscellaneous Revenue.”

Brian moved to adjourn, Sue seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m. Next meeting June 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille Campbell, Recording Secretary