

Morristown Cemetery Association
Minutes of Fall Meeting, October 25, 2023

Members present: Dennis and Lorinda Smith, Anne Shackett, Jane Paine, Cherie Lefevre.

Guest present: Sandy and Herman Fiess

Meeting called to order by President Dennis Smith at 4:00 pm.

Guests Herman and Sandy Fiess were introduced.

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were accepted as printed.

Treasurer Jane Paine went over financial statements supplied by the Town Financial Dept. Discussion took place on the amount of money we have on checking as compared to expenses for the year. It was felt some checking money could go into short term CD's at M&T Bank, since we would not need it in the winter. Motion made to move \$20,000, passed. We also need to move \$28,500 from stocks to money market at Vanguard to meet state requirements. Motion passed. Treasurer's report accepted.

Endowment Secretary Lorinda Smith reported two lot sales since July 1, one at Plains, one at Mountain View. Report accepted.

President Dennis reported that Sexton Chris Young would not be accepting the new sexton contract. The current contract was a first-time experiment and proved too costly, especially with the Town's budget problems. A meeting with Interim Town Administrator Jason Laneau, Selectboard member Chris Palermo, Town Clerk Sara Haskins, PVCA President Joie Marshall and Dennis, determined that the money previously approved for the Sexton (\$15,000) will be split to \$9,000 for the sexton and \$5,000 for a new position to update cemetery records and \$1,000 for cemetery association people to assist. The two positions will be advertised until November 15. Dennis also reported that discussions will begin with the Town concerning fees being charged, work needed to be done in the cemeteries, for instance, tree cutting, which are town property and other topics.

Grounds Reports: Everyone satisfied with Spaulding Property Management mowing other than the current agreement with the Town for every other week mowing. Dennis has mentioned this to Town officials and has asked to be involved at budget time. The Association supports weekly mowing. Nothing has been done about improving the entrances to Lakeview. Dennis will work on this when a new Town Manager is appointed. Clegg's Memorials has a list of stones that need repairs and the ones for restoration under the Historic Fund. Hopefully these will be in line for repair in 2024.

New Business: Randolph and Wheeler Cemeteries have trees that need to come down. We will get estimates in the spring and include this in the discussions with the town. Estimates will be obtained to do a cleaning of all, or most, stones. Pleasant View Cemetery had it done this summer and we will get a report from them. Dennis asked that we start thinking about the decorations allowed at the cemeteries. Some lots have decorations that are interfering with mowing and are not being maintained.

Motion to adjourn passed.

Notes by Jane, transcribed by Dennis.