



Meeting Minutes Milford Cemetery Trustees August 31, 2022 6:00 PM

In attendance:

John Yule – Chair

Jay Duffy – Vice

Bob Courage – alternate for Mike Thornton Mike Thornton excused absent

Called to order at 6:10

Minutes approved for 8-17-22 Motion by Yule, second by Duffy unanimous.

These minutes represent a general overview of a long meeting. Statements and positions of people consolidated for brevity.

I will refer to the recording of the meeting for exact chronology and statements.

Discussion of the rose bush removal

Yule made an opening statement addressing initial discovery, wrongly laying of blame on DPW. That was corrected. General discussion of wrongful removal and how it should have been addressed. Recognition of Duffy past accomplishment and passion for the cemetery. Yule gave his position that it was a wrong action.

Yule offered Duffy or Morehardt chance to speak. Duffy deferred to Morehardt.

Elliot Morehardt spoke to address his feelings on the matter. With emotion and passion he gave a long account of the history of establishing the monument and its compliance with all rules.

Duffy responded with an apology and repeatedly expressed his regret. He expressed his stated belief that he was helping a poorly maintained monument. Some discussion was had again about the contact times and discussions and the dispute was raised about timing and number of calls. Conflicting statements were made as to the accuracy of that.

Bob Courage spoke to the possibility of trustees being authorized to take such actions as Duffy took. He expressed that the trustees have complete control over the cemeteries. Yule and Courage debated if that is actually true or should be allowed. Regulation wording was debated. Morehardt interrupted and expressed that he should have been contacted.

Chuch Brickley – Cemetery super and DPW employee. He explained his position and how he cares for the graves. He also explained that the Lily grave was specifically allowed to bloom and be maintained that way for years.

Further discussion between Yule and Courage about appropriate actions by the trustees in performing work in the cemetery.

Duffy again expressed his regrets for his actions and he professed to acting in good faith. Further debate between Morehardt and Duffy about time and frequency of contacts. Elliot made statements of how and when he was contacted by Duffy that are not necessarily supported by the record. (No lengthy review of phone records was undertaken). Morehardt called Duffy a liar in plain words. No facts are on our record to support either person and publically calling out someone as a liar is not acceptable nor is it supported by any facts.

Leo Lessard Public works director made a statement about how he instructed Duffy to not do such actions again. He said Duffy concurred.

Monica Kluz spoke of her discovery of the incident and her care of Lily's grave in Morehardt's absence. She spoke positively about Duffy and his character and that he wouldn't do something like this to harm someone.

Morehardt once again discussed the beauty and design of the stone and plantings.

Yule discussed going forward with a recess or adjournment to consider this matter further.

Courage made motion to adjourn. Yule recognized the motion and that it is generally non debatable but gave Duffy a last word. Duffy issued another apology and expressed his belief he acted in good faith.

Yule seconded and a unanimous vote was made.

Morehardt spoke from the floor in opposition. The board was polled if Morehardt could speak and they allowed it.

Morehardt restated his accusations of lies by Duffy and Duffy started a rebuttal. Yule stopped discussion and enforced the adjournment.

I restate for the record that publically calling out someone as a liar is not acceptable nor is it supported by any facts.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05