



Meeting Minutes Milford Cemetery Trustees May 9th, 9:00 AM

CEMETERY TRUSTEES Working Meeting:

9 May 2022. Convened at 9 a.m. at the Riverside Cemetery break room.

Meeting began with the approval of the prior meeting minutes.

Attendees: Trustees Chair John Yule, Vice Chair Jay Duffy was excused, Recording Secretary Mike Thornton, Alternate Trustee Mr. Robert E. Courage. DPW Director Mr. Leo Lessard, Cemeteries Supervisor Mr. Chuck Rickley. Guest from Wilton's Cemetery Trustees Ms. Mary Ann Shay.

Some informal discussions prior to the official beginning of the meeting.

Hedge and stump cleanup. Chuck had a contractor grind down a significant stump at Union Street Cemetery. Hedge removal will begin when the backhoe becomes available - Thursday 11 May is very likely. Chuck contacts families who are available to avoid distress. Chuck's crew is small and he hopes for summertime help.

More stump grinding will continue when Gate City contractor is available.

Vandalism and headstone decay were discussed, security measures are being taken. The headstone repair process Chuck has perfected is underway, as time permits.

John provided a large scale overview of the Riverside Cemetery. We are continuing to seek better imagery, perhaps from the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. Find-a-Grave program is available to anyone who is interested. It shows location and, often, imagery and a brief description.

The recent loss of a Senior Planner has stressed the Department of Community Development, the Director, and staff. We will contact Mr. Lincoln Daley when his schedule permits to see if better imagery is available in Milford's Graphical Information System.

Leo started the discussion about the revitalization of the irrigation system at the Riverside Cemetery, probably in the 'fingers' area; the most distant from the maintenance building.

Recording was interrupted briefly.

The reason for the problem was discussed... the system was shut-off longer than six years ago. Vandalism, again, requires extra vigilance. Control of the individual water valves will be investigated: intent is to prevent the extent of the water waste.

West Street Cemetery is suffering extensive 'rutting' when the earth is wet and warm enough to damage the non-paved areas. Chuck feels the need to consider locking the Cemetery during such inclement conditions. Staffing shortage is a very large problem at the moment.

Chuck and Leo will have a meter set for Town supplied potable water to test the current system for leaks. Best possible outcome is to find any leaks, repair them, and use water from the nearby well to both irrigate the Cemetery (as required) and supply families and visitors non-potable water for their use at the gravesites.

In the future, the system must be shut off, blown empty, and locked until the next season's requirements, and conditions permit. Chair Yule is willing to 'reverse print' the images onto mylar. He will also seek better images of the Cemetery properties. Drone footage is another possibility to capture high resolution images from low altitude' connect to spigots with straight lines and that's the most likely water line runs.

Mary Ann added that older minutes addressed this same issue. Auto / timed shut-off valves are also available. Mr. Yule will try to capture existing imagery before taking time from Chuck & Leo. He might be able to extrapolate the waterline runs between spigots.

Mr. Robert E. Courage volunteered to be a Cemetery Trustee Alternate; his application was voted upon unanimously. His name will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration on the scheduled 23 May 2022 meeting.

Chair Yule moved to adjourn, M. Thornton seconded, they both voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,