GRAND ISLE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2023, 4:30 p.m., Grand Isle Town Office

Meeting was called to order by Valerie Hunter, Chair, at 4:32 p.m.

Commissioners present: Brian Allen, Lucille Campbell, Valerie Hunter, Sue Lawrence and Jane Pomykala.

Guests: None

Additions or deletions: None

Sue moved to approve the April 11, 2023 minutes, Jane seconded. All voted in favor.

Financial Report: One CD at M & T Bank matures on May 28, 2023. New interest rate will be set at maturity date. The second CD will be due for renewal, but notification has not yet been received. Brian moved to roll over both CDs when they mature. Lucille seconded. All in favor. Resolution instructing Melissa Boutin, Town Treasurer to renew both at the interest rate set at maturity was signed by the Commissioners.

Lawn care & Maintenance: No bill from Ron Bushway. One bill from Wade Lawrence, caretaker for $100 for installing cornerstones was approved by Val.

Burials & lot sales: One inquiry about choosing a lot using an aerial view of the cemetery. One more prepayment of the $100 adminstrative/grave opening fee was received.

Cleaning & restoration: Quote of $4,800 - $5,300 for cleaning and restoration of stones in Section B, the Hatch lot and a few in Sect. C was received from Jeff Pignona of Champlain Monuments. Price will depend on how many modern stones are not cleaned. Sue moved to have Champlain Monuments clean and restore stones up to $5,300. Brian seconded. All in favor.

Fence: New section of fence at the front of Grand Isle Cemetery. Three quotes were received: 802 Fence Company - $13,300 for steel fence; Hawk Creek Fence - $12, 661 for residential steel fence; Sunset Fence of VT - $12,800 for commercial aluminum fence. Sue moved to use Sunset Fence to install the new fence and remove the existing chain link fence for $12, 800 with a down payment of $6 400. Brian seconded. All in favor. Lucille will contact Matt Sears of Sunset Fence, Sue will send the deposit.

Sign: Val signed the invoice from Ye Olde Sign Shoppe for $905. Installation will be sometime in May.

Quaker Cemetery fence: Brian has access to some of the equipment needed to power wash the fence. Silas Shepard will do the work for $250. Brian moved to employ Silas Shepard to clean the fence. Sue seconded. All in favor.

Trees: Brian contacted Bill Baron, Grand Isle Tree Warden, concerning the condition of the trees at Grand Isle Cemetery. Bill is willing to inspect them. Brian moved to have Bill Baron inspect the trees for safety and report back to the Commission. Val seconded. All in favor.

Rules of Procedure: Brief discussion about whether other positions need to be included in Section C – Organization. Consensus was that no others were needed. Sue moved to adopt Rules and Procedures for Grand Isle Cemetery Commission as written. Jane seconded. All in favor.

Stipend: Sue suggested that the Administrative secretary position be a stipend rather than wage as it is difficult to keep track of the hours for the type of work she does. Brian moved to allow a stipend of $500 for the Administrative secretary for work done. Val seconded. All in favor. Brief discussion about a stipend for the rest of the Commissioners. This will be decided when next year’s budget is developed.

Brian left at 5:50 p.m..

Caretaker: Wade Lawrence wanted direction about: mowing outside the fence, raking driveway, planting sunflowers on waste ground in the back corner, and cleaning up the back property line. Consensus was to check with Ron Bushway about the mowing, wait on raking the drive, no sunflowers, and that we need to check with Dwight Bullis about the property line.

Jane has offered to paint the shed next to the vault.

Sue talked with Cody (---), who worked on the cemetery’s tractor for Ilyo. He put in a new carburetor and battery and did tune-up work. Cody will resend the bill for his work and will meet with Sue at the Cemetery to check why the tractor won’t start.

VFW flags: Sue moved to send the Essex VFW a thank you note and $100 donation for providing the flags for the veterans’ graves. Lucille seconded. Four in favor, 1 absent.

Brief discussion about request for volunteers to place flags. Lucille will post a notice on Front Porch Forum as was done in 2022.

Lucille moved to adjourn. Sue seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Nest meeting June 13, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille Campbell, Recording Secretary