

Town of Charleston
Cemetery Commission Meeting 05/04/18

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Cemetery Commission was held May 4, 2018. Attending: Commission Members Dean Bennett, Martin Davis, and Sherman Allen Jr.; Sexton Richard Colburn; Darald Moulton, Laborer; and Asst. Clerk Colleen Kellogg. Commissioners Wayne Bowen and Dale Carpenter were unable to attend.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Sherm Allen welcomed and introduced attendees.

Sherman Allen Jr. was elected Chairperson for 2018 (Moved by Dean, seconded by Martin). Dean thanked Sherm for doing a great job.

Teri Gray was appointed Treasurer for 2018. Moved by Martin, seconded by Dean, and unanimously approved.

Sherm read aloud the minutes of the May 05, 2017 meeting. Motion by Dean to accept as written, seconded by Martin, and unanimously approved.

Sherm said condolences had been sent to the Bennett family on the passing of Dexter Bennett. Mr. Bennett served a long time and will be missed.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR CEMETERIES: Richard has heard from Wayne that the mower used in West Village is shot (has over 1000 hours). Sherm said there is money in the 2018 budget for a new mower, and Wayne has selected a Husqvarna for around \$2399, which is in budget, and a sale would reduce the price by \$100. Commissioner agreed to the purchase as it was already planned and budgeted. Darald will also need to take in the one he uses to replace a spindle and general maintenance. He'll drop it off at Driver's.

FLAGS: Richard picked up 15 dozen flags today from the Orleans American Legion hall. He believes the Orleans Legion is furnishing them and will not bill the Town. Richard said they were pleased that the cemetery and school have a veterans' event and place flags each year. Colleen will make and send a thank you card from the Cemetery Commission for Orleans—hopefully with a photo of students. Richard believes Mark Whipple is the contact.

LABORERS: Wayne Bowen is not able to work this year so a laborer is needed for West Village. Martin and Darald are willing to do the same work as last year but cannot take on more. Cemetery neighbor Nancy Rice approached Richard and offered to mow West. All Commission members agreed on hiring Nancy if she'll accept the job. Sherm will contact her with more information about job responsibilities and to confirm her interest. If she accepts, he will ask her to call or stop by the Town Office to complete employment paperwork. Richard reminded Commissioners that they will need to arrange purchase and delivery of a new mower for her.

There was discussion of brush cleanup needed in West Village from a blown-down tree. Richard was willing to take care of it, and Sherm encouraged him to report his time and be paid for the work. Martin said he could work with Richard on his day off.

LABOR RATE. Martin suggested raising the rate from \$14 to \$15. Sherm noted that minimum wage is already headed to \$15; and Dean was supportive—as it’s hot work. Motion by Dean to raise the rate for Cemetery Laborer to \$15, seconded by Martin, and unanimously approved.

PRICE OF LOTS: Current prices are \$1000 for a full lot, \$800 for a half, and \$500 for cremation lot. Motion by Martin to keep prices the same, seconded by Dean, and unanimously approved.

OTHER OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Sherm spoke with someone who would like two full lots, but can only pay for one—they asked if financing was available. None of the Commissioners saw away to offer this, but suggested that Sherm could notify the individual first in the event that the second lot was possibly going to be sold. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that the town cannot finance lots.

Richard has seen at least three stones tipped over in West Village that are bigger than he can handle. He said that if the Commission hired Heritage Memorials, he would show them where they are. Darald hasn’t seen any down in Hillside. Motion by Dean to hire Heritage Memorials to fix three to four stones under Richard’s direction, seconded by Martin second, and unanimously approved. Sherm will call Heritage Memorials.

Richard will continue to be the contact for burial arrangements. He noted that Heritage would begin charging double for weekend funerals.

Seeing no other business, Dean moved for adjournment, Martin seconded, and the meeting, adjourned at 7:46pm, with a thank you from the Chairperson.

The next Cemetery Commission meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherman Allen
Sherman Allen, Jr. Chairperson

Approved this _____ the day of _____, 20_____

Cemetery Commissioners, Town of Charleston