

**Town of Charleston**  
**Cemetery Commission Meeting 05/03/19**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Cemetery Commission was held May 3, 2019. Attending: Commission Members Sherman Allen Jr., Dean Bennett, Martin Davis, and Nancy Rice; Sexton Richard Colburn; Laborer Darald Moulton; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; and Asst. Clerk Colleen Kellogg. Unable to attend: Commissioner Wayne Bowen.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Sherm Allen welcomed Commissioners and guests.

Dean nominated Sherm Allen as Chairperson, seconded by Nancy. Seeing no other nominations, Sherm was elected for one year.

Teri Gray informed the Commission that her election at Town Meeting covers the cemetery Treasurer office as well, so the matter of appointing a Cemetery treasurer was passed over.

Minutes of the 2018 meeting were read aloud. Motion by Dean to accept them as written, seconded by Martin and approved. The Chair expressed thanks to all of the laborers for their work in 2018.

Appreciation cards to Dale Carpenter and Wayne Bowen were circulated for signing.

After discussing cemetery security needs, Commission members agreed that solar motion lights should be installed at the Hillside and West Village storage sheds, and authorized Dean to research and purchase two. Approved by consensus.

Under items needed for town cemeteries, it was decided that the mowers used by Darald and at West Village should have a tune-up/oil change. Richard noted that the weed trimmer is worn and may need replacing soon.

Richard reports that Mrs. O'Keefe and her students plan to place flags on veterans' graves on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Sherm and Richard will collaborate to buy flags. By consensus, Commissioners asked the Treasurer to include the cost of flags in the 2020 budget.

Darald Moulton, Martin Davis and Steven Davis agreed to provide lawncare labor again in 2018. Sherm and Nancy know of an individual that may be willing to mow the West Village cemetery. With agreement from all Commissioners, Sherm will offer the mowing and trimming job to the person of interest, and ask him to visit the Town Office to complete employment paperwork.

Motion by Martin to keep the pay rate for laborers at \$15/hr, seconded by Nancy and approved by consensus.

The current lot prices are: \$1000 for a full lot (4 graves); \$800 for a half lot; and \$500 for a cremation lot. Motion by Dean to keep prices as is, seconded by Nancy and approved by consensus.

Richard Colburn will continue handle burials, with Sherm (West Village) and Dean (Hillside) shadowing when they can to learn the process. Heritage Memorials will dig and fill graves at a cost of \$400 on weekdays and \$500 on weekends, paid directly by the family.

Richard reports that he has disposed of last year's plastic flowers. He noted that these materials may soon be banned from trash, and some towns have banned them from cemeteries.

Looking ahead to the 2020 budget, Darald said the mower he uses may need a new deck. Richard reports that West Village has quite a bit of damage by deer including broken stones. It was noted that laborers have been spot-replacing rotted fence posts with steel ones to defer major fence repairs.

Commissioners are aware of a few individuals that offer stone cleaning if families are interested, including Mr. Peters and Mr. Besaw. Ryan Buck had many stones in the Buck Cemetery fixed last fall.

Seeing no other business, Dean moved for adjournment, seconded by Sherm, and the meeting, adjourned at 8:05pm.

The next Cemetery Commission meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 1, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sherman Allen*

Sherman Allen, Jr. Chairperson

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ the day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

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Cemetery Commissioners, Town of Charleston