

**Town of Charleston**  
**Cemetery Commission Meeting 05/12/22**

MINUTES

A meeting of the town Cemetery Commission was held May 12, 2022. Attending: Commission Members Sherman Allen Jr., Maurice Cerutti, and Darald Moulton; Sexton/Laborer Brad Peters; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; and Asst. Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Sherman Allen called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. There was no public comment. Mr. Allen called for a voice vote of Commissioners to allow Brad Peters to speak on any business, and all three Commissioners voted yes.

Darald Moulton nominated Sherman Allen as Chairperson for 2022, seconded by Maurice Cerutti. There were no other nominations. Mr. Allen was elected for the year.

Minutes of the May 14, 2021 and November 11, 2021 meetings were reviewed. Mr. Cerutti moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Moulton. There was no further discussion, and minutes were approved unanimously.

Regarding items needed for cemeteries, Mr. Moulton has turned over his key to Brad Peters so Mr. Peters can cover while Mr. Moulton is unavailable during the week. Tools and mowers are in good shape. Mr. Peters overhauled the West Village mower last fall, and changed the oil on both mowers. The weed trimmer for West Village is in good shape, and Martin Davis uses his own. Mr. Cerutti suggested looking at battery models when replacement is needed. The shed at West Village cemetery needs paint this year. Mr. Peters will pick up paint using the town account at Gervais and paint it the same color.

Mr. Allen said he picked up new flags for veterans' graves, and they were dropped off at the school. Mr. Cerutti said he will join Charleston Elementary students and teachers in placing flags on veterans' graves on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cerutti said the town needs about 196 flags to cover all veterans, and they will redo the inventory this year. He thinks the town will have enough flags for next year. Mr. Allen said the town purchased a gross of flags for \$88, which is a better price than in the past. The possibility of purchasing flag holders was discussed, but no decision was made. Mr. Cerutti said that aluminum ones are \$11 each so the town could consider buying a few each year.

Cemetery labor needs are covered for the year. Martin and Steven Davis are weed-trimming at Hillside, and Brad Peters will cover West Village again. Mr. Peters will also mow Hillside and take care of other work previously done by Darald Moulton, who is unavailable during the week this summer.

The current labor rate is \$15 per hour. There was no change.

The Town's cost for corner posts has increased from \$105 to \$200. Mr. Cerutti made a motion to increase all lot prices by \$100 to cover this cost, bringing the price of a full lot to \$1100, a

half-lot to \$900, and a cremation lot to \$600 effective immediately, seconded by Mr. Moulton and approved by voice vote. Mr. Peters confirmed that he will still the posts.

Commissioners are interested in cleaning a few stones each year. Mr. Peters cleans stone for \$65 per stone. Mr. Cerutti suggested adding a budget line item for this purpose. Mr. Allen said this could be brought to voters for approval at Town Meeting. Mr. Cerutti made a motion to bring forth a town meeting article to fund cleaning of stones annually, with the amount and language to be finalized at the fall Commission meeting and proposed to Selectboard, seconded by Mr. Moulton, and approved by voice vote.

The Commission will pursue budget funds for stone cleaning, so there was no need to discuss a new reserve fund at this time.

There was no Old Business. Under New Business, it was noted that the West Village Cemetery drive needs maintenance. Hillside looks good. Mr. Peters will speak to the Highway Foreman about road maintenance at West Village. The following feedback was given about the condition of fences: Mr. Moulton said he adds posts at Bly as needed, and brush on the back side should be cut to save the fence. Mr. Cerutti said the Crawford Hill looks good—no issues there.

The next Cemetery Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 27, 2022. The Town Clerk's Office will contact Mr. Allen to set an agenda and notify Commission members a few weeks prior.

Mr. Cerutti submitted his letter of resignation to the board as he will be moving from Charleston in a month and will not be eligible to hold office. The Selectboard can appoint a replacement, and Commission members were asked to think about someone who they might recommend to the Selectboard for appointment until Town Meeting.

Mr. Allen asked Ms. Kellogg to distribute meeting minutes to all Commissioners, including absent members.

Seeing no other business, Mr. Cerutti moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Allen, and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherman Allen  
Sherman Allen, Jr. Chairperson

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

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Cemetery Commissioners, Town of Charleston

*Cemetery Minutes 05/12/2022*