

Town of Charleston
Cemetery Commission Meeting 05/23/2024

MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

A meeting of the town Cemetery Commission was held May 23, 2024. Attending: Commission Members Sherman Allen Jr., Janice Bowen, Martin Davis, Grace Frizzell, and Darald Moulton; Sexton/Laborer Brad Peters; Town Clerk & Treasurer Teri Gray; and Asst. Clerk Colleen Kellogg.

Chairperson Sherman Allen called the meeting to order at 4:53 pm and welcomed all attendees.

The first item of business was to elect a chairperson. Darald Moulton nominated Sherm Allen as Chairperson for 2024, and the motion was seconded by Grace Frizzell. Seeing no other nominations, Mr. Allen was elected for the year.

Minutes of the November 9, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Janice Bowen moved to accept the minutes as written, and Darald Moulton seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Sherm Allen asked that Brad Peters be allowed to speak about cemetery matters during the meeting, and there were no objections.

It was noted that a new lawn tractor and cedar posts were purchased over the winter. Brad Peters reports that the new zero-turn John Deere is faster and easier to maneuver around gravestones. Some posts around the Bly Cemetery will be replaced.

Flags for veterans' graves were purchased, delivered, paid for and placed by Charleston students last week. Sherm Allen asked about the location of a flag for Buster Bowen at the end of Hudson Rd as well as what might be done for veterans buried on private grounds.

Cemetery laborers have arranged coverage for all cemeteries. Steven Davis will work this year, so he and Martin have taken over mowing and weed-whacking Bly and Buck. Brad Peters will still do Crawford, West and Morrill. It was noted that 2024 wages were set last Fall at \$16/hr.

Brad Peters will purchase stain for the Hillside shed and complete the work this year. It will take about a gallon of stain.

Brad Peters said that about a third of the fence on the upper side is falling due to rotted posts. Duane Moulton, who has electric fence connected to it for his horses, offered to use his tractor with auger to help set posts. This will take about 40 fence posts. Brad believes they are cheaper if unsharpened. Metal fencing will also be needed; this runs about \$280 for a 300-ft roll. Darald Moulton has two 48" rolls that he will give to the Cemeteries. Brad Peters will tally and purchase the posts needed and work with Duane Moulton to install the posts and fence.

Items that will be needed for cemeteries this year include fence posts, stain, and more seed for Hillside. Sherm Allen noted that the turf repairs done last year by Brad Peters are holding up well.

With a new Cemetery Stone Preservation Fund established by vote at Town Meeting, Teri Gray asked Commissioners to decide on the amount from each lot sale that will be contributed to the Fund. She noted that the Perpetual Care Fund contribution was reduced last year to increase the “lot fee,” which is the amount kept by the town as revenue after purchasing posts and contributing to Perpetual Care. Commission members discussed possible options. Darald Moulton made a motion to contribute 40% of the Lot Fee to the Preservation Fund. The motion was seconded by Janice Bowen and approved unanimously. It was noted that Commissioners have the option to review lot prices and the Preservation Fund contribution annually.

Colleen Kellogg said it has been suggested that the Commission hold its annual meeting in April rather than May. All members agreed with this.

The date for the 2024 Fall meeting was set for November 14, 2024, at 5:00 pm.

Seeing no other business, Janice Bowen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Darald Moulton and the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherman Allen, Jr. Chairperson

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20_____

Cemetery Commissioners, Town of Charleston