



CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting held in person at City Hall in Conference A
1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, NH

Members Present: Co-Chair Susan Sterry; Co-Chair Deirdre Forte; Eva Boice; Sue Polidura; Michael Griffin; and Celeste Brooks. Duncan MacCallum arrived at 4:06.

Members Present by Zoom: Peter Splaine

Staff Present: Suzanne M. Woodland, Deputy City Manager / Regulatory Counsel

1. Call to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call of the Members as noted above.
3. **Motion:** Boice moved to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2023, meeting. Seconded by Celeste Brooks. Approved unanimously.
4. Point of Graves update -Sterry reported on the recent damage to a wall due to a truck hitting it. Sterry asked for an update on any testing for groundwater levels.
5. Hall Cemetery update – Sterry has been working with Max from the Department of Public Works to get updated quotes to remove the trees at Hall Cemetery. The quotes are coming in much higher than previously estimated. There are different scopes of work proposed by the companies. Co-Chair Sterry discussed the various challenges to during work on the site. Sterry and Max have discussed a possible public meeting with the neighbors to discuss options to conduct the work.
6. Union Cemetery update – Discussion of the mold issues on a number of headstones. It may be of value to spray in advance of scrubbing the headstones to help with the mold.
7. Headstone Cleaning update – Discussion of upcoming headstone cleaning events. Brief discussion of social media posting of events.

8. Fundraising – Co-Chair Sterry indicated that she has an upcoming meeting with the Piscataqua Savings Bank. Boice discussed that the most effective fundraising is generally one-on-one.

9. Other business, if any:

Boice has checked the rack cards – question arose around the location of the rack cards at the public library. Woodland to follow up.

Discussion of status of effort to set up database to locate graves. Maps and contact information for cemeteries are close to being ready to launch on the website.

Co-Chair Sterry has spoken with Monte Bohanan, Communications & Community Engagement, about updating the webpage.

Brief discussion regarding signage for South Cemetery.

Polidura shared some pictures of North Cemetery.

Co-Chair Sterry discussed that Department of Public Works conducted some of the brush clearing and some of the overgrowth at North Cemetery.

Brief discussion of plans for reinterment of remains at North Cemetery. Still a work in progress.

10. Public Comment – No public comment.

11. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023

Motion: Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Boice. All concurred.

Minutes prepared by:
Suzanne Woodland, Deputy City Manager/Regulatory Counsel

Minutes Approved: 9/7/2023