

Village of Skaneateles

Cemetery Board of Lake View Cemetery

Regular Meeting – September 18, 2023

Present: Rob Gray, Chairman
Roben Shappell, Deputy Chair
Mary Marshall, Commissioner
Susan Fox, Commissioner
Pete Buehler, Commissioner
DMO Posella

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Minutes - On the motion of Comm. Marshall, seconded by Comm. Fox, the Board approved the minutes from the November 6th meeting, upon the unanimous vote among the members present in favor of the motion, it was carried 4-0.

Transactions –

- Thomas Trowbridge – Section 11A, Lot 135 – 2 East graves, non-monumented
- Michelle Cuttler – Section 11B, Lot 414 – 2 graves, monumented

Rules & Regulations – President Gray presented the Board with an email print out of the changes that he believes should be made to select sections of the Rules & Regulations. Deputy Chair Shappell expressed her concern that if we make it too specific, there is a lot of room for missing something. Comm. Fox said that her ideas were similar to Deputy Chair Shappell's but revolved more around what the cemetery should not be responsible for. DC Shappell said that it is very difficult to be specific and cover everything. DMO Posella talked the difficulties that the DPW faces when doing the fall clean up of leaves and debris throughout the cemetery with things like mums and wreaths that are placed. They typically do the clean up with high powered leaf blowers and he worries about damaging decorations, or blowing them all over. President Gray suggested on moving the fall decoration date back to November 15th instead of October 15th to give visitors time to decorate/put fall plants out, which again brought up the issue of having ample time to get the leaf/debris clean up done before the 1st of December when winter decorations are able to be placed. DMO Posella let the Board know that he is planning on having more full time staff in the cemetery to help keep up with the leaves throughout the months, instead of having to tackle it in one swoop. He shared a picture that he had taken of a certain lot in the cemetery that always has excessive décor, and if you times that by the amount of other lots that have the same, it is a lot to compete with for clean up. Comm. Buehler agrees with pushing the date back to November 15th, but he believes people should be able to put wreaths up before December 1, a lot of visitors come for Thanksgiving holiday and leave wreaths then, because they are not around for the December 1 date. DMO Posella mentioned that the most efficient way to do leaf clean up through the cemetery would be to place baggers on the mowers and have cemetery staff clean them up as they come down. Comm. Buehler thought that was a great idea and that we should look into budgeting that next year, about \$600.00 per bag. Comm. Buehler also thought that having new purchasers sign for the Rules and Regulations when they receive them at time of purchase, so they are responsible to know what they say. Comm. Fox suggested that maybe there was a more clear format that could be used to lay out the “do’s and don’ts” of decorations. President Gray thinks that the

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current dates are fine, but DMO Posella and DCT Christy will go through and add suggestions in preparation for the next Board meeting.

Other/Old Business –

- *AMA Update* – DCT Christy updated the Board on the progress that DC Shappell has made with helping to fill in the spreadsheets for the software program. Spreadsheets were sent to the developer and waiting for feedback.
- *Section Map Update* – President Gray inquired about the section map that we would like to place in the cemetery to depict the sections of the cemetery for visitors that need help navigating. DCT Christy let the Board know that we do have the map and just need to decide how we would like to post it in the cemetery.
- *Vault Update* – President Gray asked DMO Posella if he had been able to check out the vault yet, he had not but plans on doing so when he does his walk through of the Chapel to make sure everything inside is in order.
- *Burrows Chapel* – No updates, working on securing contractors, hoping to rope in with a bigger job to make it more desirable.

Next Meeting – The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 22nd, at the Village Hall.

On the motion of Comm. Marshall, seconded by Deputy Chair Shappell the Board approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:38am, upon the unanimous vote among the members present in favor of the motion, it was carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cori Christy,
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer