

Waterbury Cemetery Commission
April 3, 2024
Steele Room (Municipal complex)
DRAFT

Present: Jan Gendreau, John Woodruff, Jill Chase, Tom Leitz, and Barb Walton.

Guest: Jane Brown, Tree Committee; Karen Cavender, Commissioner Applicant

Minutes

- Approval of January and February 2024; accepted as written.

Public

Peter Turmell -Dog Ordinance Concern

- Peter wanted to know where were the “No dogs in the cemetery “signs. Was upset to see a dog urinate on his mother’s grave. Also mentioned the concern over the excrement.
- John explained that lawn staff finding excrement in the cemeteries is very little. Signs were taken down because of the lack of enforcement.

Jarett Emert, Loomis Hill Signage

- Jarett is a resident of Waterbury Center his home borders the Loomis Hill Cemetery and is responding to the committee’s project of putting signage of how to enter the right of way to the Loomis Hill.
- Jarett presented letters to the committee members reflecting his concern for the safety of his family by putting up signage for Loomis Hill.
- We did not discuss the letter but will take it up later. However, we had the opportunity to discuss how we can improve the information available to the public via town’s web page. Suggestion made to review the directions to the cemeteries and how to improve them.

Jane Brown, Tree Committee Updates

- Tree committee applied for and received a small urban grant in the past to teach pruning to interested community members.
- Tree committee is holding a pruning session this spring and would be interested in Hope Cemetery trees that were planted several years ago. Jan mentioned that Mattie from Vista Tree Care pruned the trees a year ago. Jane Brown mentioned that they could go beyond the cemetery along Winooski Street to where that they could expand the work beyond the elms and crab apple trees had been planted not too long ago. Jan also suggested they could work on the lilacs by the swimming pool, so she and Jane would take a walk someday to check it out.

- Jane mentioned that the tree committee had done an inventory in 2016 of village trees and they are going to do that again this year and are looking for volunteers in June/July. It was also suggested that tree committee do an inventory of all cemeteries, too, since the town is responsible for the cemeteries, inactive, or active.
- It was suggested that we be in closer touch w/ the tree committee—maybe take turns attending their mtgs and vice versa (right now, the 2nd Friday of the month, April 12th at 12:30) and vice versa. Read each other’s minutes on the town website.
- Also discussed our 3 ash trees that have been inoculated not long ago to the tune of \$1,000 plus. It should be done every other year or every 2-3 years. They can’ be evaluated until leafed out. Jane mentioned two arborists who do inoculations: Vt. Arborists (Stowe) and Acer (Waterbury Center). Will be discussed later.

Candidate for Vacant Commissioner position, Karen Cavender

- Resident of Waterbury Center, Executive Director Emergency and Perioperative Services at Copley Hospital.
- Energetic and fun to work with.
- Committee felt we should submit application to selectboard.
- John will submit application to the selectboard.

John Updates

- John spoke w/ Peter Plagge from the congregational church, and he said to go ahead w/ the crab apples [pruning/shaping] behind the church [which she had included in the first estimate of 1700+/-

Renewed the cemetery rates for the following: opening grave \$400.00, plot purchase \$700.00; corner posts \$225.00 and weekend work is \$100.00.

Assignments for Committee Members

- **Jan**
Contact Mattie and tell her to go ahead w/ pruning / shaping of the oak trees by the cemetery fence. [pruning/shaping] behind the church [which she had included in the first estimate of 1700+/- . Arrange to show Jane Brown lilac area around the pool.
- **John**
Prepare a packet for Karen like he gave us on forms and procedures. Do we take Amy’s Cemetery Book back or do we have to make up a new one?
- **Jill**
Send packet on John’s instruction on how to sell plots and burials to Karen.

- Barb
Research directions for the cemeteries
Confirm with Tom of Highlander Loomis Hill work for 2024.

Discussion Topics and Questions that still need to be answered.

- Inoculations of oak trees
- Volunteers June/July tree inventory
- Peter Turmell Concern
- Response to Jarett Letter

Next Meeting: May 1, 2024, 4 pm
Steele Room (Municipal complex)

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Walton