

PEMBROKE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

October 12, 2023

Minutes

Present: Daniel Chase, James Garvin, Adam Mendoza, Ellen Paulsen (chair), V. J. Ranfos, Zachary Sawyer, Fleda Young.

1. The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of September 14, 2023, were approved as presented.

New Business:

3. V. J. Ranfos pointed out that the Cemetery Maintenance budget retains an unexpended balance of \$1,932.34. Commission members discussed projects that potentially could be funded by this amount, preventing the balance from lapsing by the end of the fiscal year. Suggested projects included the removal of the dying maple tree at New North Pembroke Cemetery and the repair of the damaged zinc grave marker near the Badger-Appleton Tomb at Evergreen Cemetery. The Commission voted to authorize V. J. to select one of these projects, or another that might be completed with this fund balance, and try to get the work done and paid for by the end of the year.

Old Business:

4. On September 13, Public Works director V. J. Ranfos received a telephone call from Lisa Franklin offering the services of a youth group to provide a cemetery cleanup day on Saturday, October 14. Commission members had not suggested a cemetery-related project that might be feasible for such a group. Jim Garvin reported that he had passed information regarding Ms. Franklin's offer to Ammy Heiser, chair of the Pembroke Conservation Commission, thinking that that commission might have a project such as cleanup along one of the range roads or in a conservation area. Jim had heard nothing about any Conservation Commission response.
5. Dan Chase confirmed that he will coordinate the removal of veterans' flags from Evergreen Cemetery by the Pembroke Cub Scouts on November 15th, weather permitting.
6. Secretary Garvin sent a letter requesting consolidation of the ornaments on the grave of the late Ryan Mihill in Evergreen Cemetery to Clinton A. Mihill, Ryan's father, at two possible addresses on June 5 and September 2, 2023. He followed this with a second mailing to each possible address, return receipt requested, on September 18. He has not

received a reply, or a return of the receipt, from any of these mailings. It was suggested that the letters may have been returned to the Pembroke Town Hall as undeliverable.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the ornaments will be removed from the Mihill grave while the Cub Scouts are removing veterans' flags on November 18th, boxed, and placed in the Hearse House at Pembroke Street for future disposition.

It was also suggested that the Commission try to learn more about the adjacent grave of Melissa J. Driesse Couture (1974-2019), which is decorated with more of the same ornaments placed at Ryan Mihill's grave. Ms. Couture may have been a Mihill relative and research might lead to further clues regarding possible contacts in the Mihill family.

7. V. J. Ranfos discussed apparent discrepancies in the record of lot sales and burials in an area of Pembroke Hill Cemetery. An examination of the area revealed evidence of former burials not recorded in the town's Crypt Keeper™ computer database of burials. Public Works secretary Chris Addington is continuing to attempt to rectify the records for this area of the cemetery.
8. The next regular meeting of the Cemetery Commission will be on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Works headquarters on Exchange Street in Suncook Village. The Commission and the Public Works Department will remain in contact during the winter and will continue to cooperate as necessary on any new matters pertaining to the town cemeteries.
9. On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin, Secretary