

8/16/2020
Meeting Minutes
Corinth VT Cemetery Commission Business Meeting!

Date & Time of Meeting: 6:30 PM August 12th 2020

Location. Was a Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88440419701?pwd=RzUwK0tJcVRBa0wrY3B1UkNoZEo1UT09>

Meeting ID: 884 4041 9701 Passcode: 983278

AGENDA:

1. Last Meeting Minutes: Correct & Approve.

Discussion:

Clarify that rate changes to take effect at the beginning of the new fiscal year 7/1/2020,

Geoffrey made the motion to correct the minutes from the June 5/2020 meeting to read as follows, "Rate changes to take effect at the beginning of the new fiscal year 7/1/2020" and to approve the last minutes. Ray second, all in favor, so move.

2. Take up agenda item #9 from previous June 5th 2020.

Meetings: Discuss Cem Com meetings in general. To include open meeting laws and Town email addresses for us three commissioners to allow for email correspondence. Set the next meeting.

After discussion it was agreed to have Norm get a separate email for the purpose of recording correspondence to meet with the open meeting law requirement. We agreed to email all three of us in a loop with any Cem Com Business so the record of correspondence exists via Norm's town email address.

Discussion on setting meeting dates:

Raymond moved that we table meeting discussions to the end of the meeting, Geoffrey second, all in favor so move.

3. Update on various cemetery projects. Corinth Corner fence and landscape sunken graves filling/ West Corinth sunken grave filling/etc.

Discussed cemetery projects to include Corinth Corner fence along the road

and the gate system is being studied and we should be able to put a vinyl two rail fence system with granite posts to hang gates with a budget of \$2,500. It was suggested and agreed that the money will have to come out of Fidelity as soon as we have access. No official vote on the subject at this time though it is long overdue and we had agreed to get it done some years ago. Sunken grave filling discussed in East Corinth, the Corner and West Corinth along with other updates on cemetery maintenance.

Cemeteries mowings have been kept up well this year. Many old memorials remain in need of repair. We hope to get to some of these projects as mowing needs slow down.

Discussed Cemetery property & burial options in East Corinth & Corinth Corner.

No Action.

4. Finances: Discuss finances to include how we are making out with our new treasurer and to take care of any new treasurer's office needs. To discuss the Fidelity Investment accounts and other options to maximize interest income in said investment accounts verses CD's etc.

Discussion about the problem we are still having getting the treasurer into our Fidelity account so they can carry out the directives we sent them from the June 5th 2020 meeting.

Discussed and agreed to have Geooffrey go in to help us get set back up and running with Fidelity, and to have Raymond's name on the account and to get Dick on it as well so that the Cemetery Commission does not have access problems again in the future.

We also discussed having Geoffrey on the Fidelity account as well as Raymond if feasible and allowable and we agreed on this as well since he has experiance in finances of this nature. We agreed that we need to get the Fidelity account up and running and Geoffrey would go to the office to help do so.

We also discussed putting the Braman CD (\$25,000), into our Fidelity account but to keep it seperate so that we can monitor and manage it's interest for use in the Center Cemetery as needed. It was donated to the perpetual care fund for the Center only. This was voted on at the June 5th 2020 meeting but the treasurer's office has not yet accomplished this

directive.

5. Vaults: Discuss the Pro & Cons of Vaults.

Discussions: Vaults protect caskets, help prevent toxins from entering soil, and prevent sunken graves.

The cemetery commission needs to drive over graves with trucks from time to time to reach other graves, and so without vaults, graves get compacted down by tire tracks and this creates extra work and expense long term.

However, vaults & installations have become very expensive over time.

We have discussed the need for fees if non vault burials are carried out.

If embalming is used a vault should be mandatory to help prevent pollution.

Raymond would be open to allowing natural burials in shroud or natural native wood casket burials in the newest unused section of East Corinth Cemetery, wherein a row or two along the fence line could be designated for natural burials. All other cemeteries that have room for burials and non vault burials could be allowed. Geoffrey & Norm agree with this line of thinking. No action yet taken.

6. Lots & Fees: Discuss & act on lot fees to include: Full Lots 10' x 20', Half Lots 10' x 10', 1/4 Lots, as in Corinth Corner, Single Lots & Single Lot Options, Cremation Burial Lots w/flat markers, Flat Markers only for folk who cast ashes elsewhere yet want a flat marker in a family lot. Flat Markers per lots. And any other lot fees prices for other arrangements that may come up at the meeting. Discuss Corinth Corner lots we have to may 10 'x 20's not enough 10' x 10's or single lots.

Discussed Nancy Ertle's request for a bill for David Carrier's memorial ground marker so she can write a check from the estate before it closes. The estate can not simply donate funds to anyone and would need a bill.

Raymond does not think we should charge for David 's cremation lot as David helped us with the West Corinth cemetery for several years at no charge. This is our appreciation of David's contributions. All agreed this was fine and a good gesture.

Present lots & fees are \$700 for a full 10' x 20' that comes with corner stones, and \$350 for a half lot 10' x 10' to include corner markers. Both lot

sizes require a recording fee that is in addition to the lot fees.

Discussion on lot fees and lot sizes:

Rate Change Effective Sept 1/2020:

Full lot 10' x 20' - \$900.00 plus recording fees. Corner markers included

Half Lot 10' x 10' - \$600.00 plus recording fees. Corner markers included.

Single 42" x 10' - \$300.00 plus recording fees flush ground marker only - no cornerstones.

Cremation Lot --- \$200.00 plus recording fees flush ground marker only - no cornerstones.

Rate Change Effective Sept 1/2021:

Full lot 10' x 20' - \$1,100.00 plus recording fees. Corner markers included.

Half Lot 10' x 10' --- \$700.00 plus recording fees. Corner markers included.

Single Lot 42" x 10' \$300.00 plus recording fees flush ground marker only - no cornerstones.

Cremation Lot ----- \$200.00 plus recording fees flush ground marker only - no cornerstones.

Memorials: Only one upright memorial allowed for a Full or Half lots with grass markers for individual family members. Grass markers are allowed for Single & Cremation lots but not upright memorials.

No non residence extra fees to be charged presently.

Motion made by Norm to adopt these rates and schedules, Geoffrey second, all approve, so move.

Discussed lack of single & half lots. Geoffrey made a motion that by cemetery commission discretion that we divide full lots into half lots or single lots. Raymond second, all approve so carry.

7. Other Service Fees: Discuss Burial fees & other fees to the cemetery commision.

No Action.

8. Bi-Laws: Continue to review & update the bi-laws/compare with neighboring towns.

Discussions. This will be an involved process but it is doable in a reasonable amount of time. We will need regular bi-monthly meetings or at the very least monthly meetings, if we are going to wrap all this up this year and be

done with it. Email correspondence can help us to narrow things down, but regular meetings will be needed to update the bi-laws if we are going to get these bylaws updated in a reasonable amount of time.

Ongoing study. No Action.

9. Green Burials: Continue to review green burial options.

Geoffrey updated us on the town forest and possible options for a natural burial ground in the forest. It could take some time, maybe years for this option to be available. Apparently, town forest management plans need to be updated and this will take some time there is a lot involved. Presently, natural burials options at the town forest is a work in progress. No action.

10. Conduct any other business that may come before the board.

Agenda Item 1 was moved here to set our next meeting and meetings for bi-law and natural burial study & updates..

We discussed our next meeting to be held possibly in late September early October based on a meeting each third or quarter, or when we need to set one we will just post it and have one. No other action.

Norm made a motion to adjourn, Raymond second all approved so move. The Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by The Corinth Vermont Cemetery Commission on this day, August 3rd 2020.

Norm Collette (2023)

Raymond Moulton (2022)

Geoffrey Hoots (2021)