



## Joint Meeting of the Cemetery Advisory Board & The Friends of Milton, VT Cemeteries

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

43 Bombardier Road, Municipal Building, Community Room

### MINUTES

**Cemetery Advisory Board Members Present:** Jim Ballard, Al Beaupre, John Mayville, Peter Staniels, Jay Nadeau, Bev Hayden

**Friends Members Present:** Sally Ryan

**Others Present:** Don Turner Jr, Kristin Beers

- Jim Ballard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm
- Al Beaupre inquired about the status of a broken headstone. Don Turner confirmed it is back in the Checkerberry Cemetery, laid flat, as it was not repairable.
- Don Turner handed out a FY22 financial report for review.
- Don Turner gained verbal permission from the property owner adjacent to the Miltonboro Cemetery (Jim Rowen), for an easement which will allow us to create a 10' road granting vehicular access from Beebe Hill Road to the rear of the cemetery.
- Don shared that a donor offered to match funds to benefit the Miltonboro Cemetery.
  - John Mayville made a motion to allow the Town to use the \$5,721.09 in the bank account, benefiting from the match donation.
  - Jay Nadeau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Don Turner has reached out for a price quote to repair the iron gate at the entrance of the Milton Village Cemetery. Waiting for a response.
- Friends Treasurer's report: The Friends began with a balance of about \$4,000. About \$600 was spent on the Village Cemetery row markers. The Friends received a \$1,000 donation to be used at the Miltonboro Cemetery and the GoFundMe campaign has raised \$561.50 for the Miltonboro Cemetery. The bank account now has a balance of about \$5,129.75. The Friends sent out fundraising appeal letters and have had a small response.
- Brief discussion regarding the potential litigation regarding a family plot in the Village Cemetery. Don Turner updated that the Town Attorney has been corresponding with the complainant's attorney, and we are waiting to see what the next steps may be.
  - John Mayville made a motion to rename the Old West Milton Cemetery to Founders Cemetery.
  - Bev Hayden seconded. There was discussion about other name options, and it was agreed that Founders was neutral enough.
  - Motion passed unanimously.

- This year's Memorial Day event in Milton will be sponsored by the Friends of the Milton VT Cemeteries. Jim Ballard asked the Friends for permission to spend \$25 on a Memorial Day Plant from the Friends. It was a unanimous, "yes".
- Discussion regarding the June 4<sup>th</sup> work day. The group agreed to focus on the Village, West Milton, Miltonboro and Checkerberry cemeteries. We will meet Tom Giffin, of VOCA, and all the volunteers at the West Milton Cemetery at 9:00 am. Our goal is to learn how to repair broken headstones from Tom, and a small group could go repair stones in the Checkerberry Cemetery on that work day.
- Cemetery Watch: It would be ideal if members could all be responsible for a cemetery and report findings to Peter. Peter announced that he has recruited a new volunteer to help watch the Miltonboro Cemetery. Jim reminded everyone that if a Veteran's stone is found broken, it can get replaced at no cost to us.
- The "Cemetery needs" was briefly summarized as the need for more funds and labor.
- The Village Cemetery informational board is coming along nicely. It will have a map of the cemetery, places for brochures and announcements, etc. It will be located in the open space near the intersection of the loop road (by the ravine).
- Jim Ballard recommended that we join the Vermont Cemetery Association. This is different from and does not conflict with our working with the Vermont Old Cemetery Association. Kristin will follow up with Don and ask, 1) about joining the Vermont Cemetery Association? and 2) will the Town pay for the board's VOCA memberships?
- Jim announced a project being worked on by the historical society - a cemetery walk to Veteran's graves.
- Jim suggested we invite St. Ann's Cemetery people to meet and share common concerns.
- There was discussion of having more work days than just the one on June 4<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested to meet every second Saturday of a month. After discussion, it was decided to have a work day on May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am at the Founders Cemetery (formerly known as the Old West Milton Cemetery).
- The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kristin Beers*

APPROVED MINUTES:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Jim Ballard, Chair