

**Town of Bedford
Cemetery Trustees Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2023**

1. ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Bedford Cemetery Trustees was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 4:00 PM at the Bedford Town Office Building. Present were Dave Bailey, Denise Ricciardi and our newest member, Barbara Chagnon. Chairman Bailey called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION by Denise Ricciardi for Dave Bailey to be Chairman. Seconded by Barbara Chagnon. Vote taken – Motion Passed 3-0.

MOTION by Dave Bailey for Barbara Chagnon to be Secretary. Seconded by Denise Ricciardi. Vote taken – Motion Passed 3-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Possible Expansion of Cemetery Property

On May 5, Becky Hebert, Planning Director and Jean Walker, Assistant Town Manager met with Dave Bailey and Barbara Chagnon. They walked the property around Center Cemetery to see what might be a viable option for expansion. Becky and Jean were going to do some research on where the lot lines were and get back to us for another meeting.

The other options being discussed include the construction (purchase) of a columbarium for holding cremains and/or perhaps starting an area for burial of only urns. Dave would estimate that at this point in time we will be sufficient to cover needs of roughly eight years. Land behind Joppa could be an option as well; which has not yet been totally investigated.

b. Discussion of Budget

The main expense seen at this date is that we will be repairing roughly thirteen historic stones. There are funds allocated specifically for this purpose. We also want to assure that those funds are placed appropriately in the accounts. Dave has been reaching out to Ken Peterson (Trustee of the Trust Funds) to assure that is taken care of.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion / Update of new software program

We anticipate hearing from “CemSites” as to when the new software will be ready for use. They will supply us with training so that we will again be able to update our public information; as well as use the records internally. We are starting with the basic system and can add options as we progress.

b. Discussion for Removal of 2 Disease large maple trees in Old Section of Center Cemetery

As previously discussed, we will be removing two diseased maple trees from Bedford Center Cemetery this (early) summer, on advice of an arborist. As the removal could possibly interfere with the property-owner at 3 Church Road, we have agreed to wait until after they have a family event in early June.

c. Other Old Business

Dave Bailey shared that Request for Bids out for an Irrigation System for the cemeteries will go out in June.

Also shared was that we were lucky this winter in that no tree damage was caused to any of the headstones. While some branches, etc. did fall; they missed any stones. They did, however, do some damage to the fencing. We need to look into repairing that.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chagnon, Secretary