

St. Johnsbury Cemetery Commission
October 12, 2023

The St. Johnsbury Cemetery Commission met at the Welcome Center. In attendance were Bryan LeBlanc, Tim Cloutre, Karen Budde, Lauren Järvi, Stacy Jewell, Andy Dussault, Darrell Gervais and Chad Whitehead.

Meeting called to order by Lauren at 8:00 AM.

Bryan moved to approve the minutes for the September 7 meeting. Tim seconded the motion which was approved by B & T.

Darrell brought a box of financial records from Laura Thayer for the St Johnsbury Center Cemetery. They met last month and voted to dissolve their organization. The general understanding is that the next step will be for the Select Board to approve the town taking over this property and cemetery. The process itself is not altogether clear. When the town assumed ownership of the Grove Cemetery in 2016 their records were decidedly more tidy and an audit or business valuation of the records was done. Chad is looking into what can/must be done this time as the SJCC has not had regular meetings or financial reports for at least four years, likely longer. Chad will continue his research with VLCT and contact Rich Lyon who worked at AM Peisch when the Grove financial records were reviewed. He is concerned about any liabilities that the town may be assuming. Chad will also check with the Town Attorney re the legal formalities that will need to take place. Lauren will check in with the Town of Concord which is apparently going through a similar process with one of their cemeteries, and also contact the VT Government Finance Assn at Stacy's suggestion. Dale Deblois was expected to be bringing the maps and deed cards he has. No sign of those yet. It's hoped that this process can be completed soon, well before the end of year. It will be a factor in our budgeting for next year.

Ads ran in the Caledonian record on September 27 and 30 notifying the public about their need to remove any items of personal interest in our cemeteries by October 15. Sometime thereafter Karen will plan to remove any items that might blow away or deteriorate over the winter, as Bryan has been doing. This will likely happen after Veterans Day. The gate will be closed at that time per Chad.

Karen gave us a report of her activity, including that she's sold two lots at the Ayer-Hawkins Cemetery. She has been working with Chad and seems to be up to speed, and ready to see what needs to be done with the STCC records once the town takes it over.

Tim will see about getting lot/burial pricing from area cemeteries that we'll review next month to see if it's time to revise our fee structure.

Bryan moved to adjourn at 9:04. Seconded by Lauren, approved by B & L

Our next meeting will be on November 9.