

St. Johnsbury Cemetery Commission
September 5, 2024

The St. Johnsbury Cemetery Commission met at the Welcome Center. In attendance were Bryan LeBlanc, Tim Cloutre, Lauren Järvi, Karen Budde, Chad Whitehead and Bruce and Janet Benoit.

Meeting called to order by Lauren at 8:01 AM.

Bryan moved to approve the minutes from our August 8 meeting. Seconded by Tim. Approved by B & T.

Mr. Benoit explained that he's interested in having a bench memorial placed on his family lot at the Grove. Our policies do not address this specifically however we agreed that a centrally placed bench could be an option. Tim recommended that the base extend out well beyond the actual legs to allow for mowing around it.

We then turned our discussion to the matter of cremains (cremated human remains) being scattered. Some families find this to be an appropriate and preferred practice to urn burial. We agreed that we need to update our Policies to include language that specifically states that this is prohibited in our cemeteries. Tim will take care of this, as the editor of the document.

Karen reported that she has identified the anonymous decedent in the upper northeastern corner of the SJCC as Tim Sears. She contacted his widow, Donna Sear who apparently was not involved in his unmarked burial there. Karen will do her best to record a Burial Permit. Details are sparse at best on just when this happened or who was involved.

The replacement fencing at the Grove has yet to be installed. Lauren will contact MRM to confirm that they plan to do this this year, before the snow flies.

We discussed the best way to communicate with DPW to make sure they are aware of the list of outstanding items we expect them to attend to. We'll put together a list and invite Steve B to a meeting this fall to make sure we have a mutual understanding of how best to communicate with him, and what are reasonable expectations on our part. We're certainly aware of the extraordinary demands on the department this summer due to flooding and other unusual circumstances..

Finally Chad offered to get us set up for the new open meeting laws and OWL technology. We'll use it going forward.

Bryan moved to adjourn at 9:25. Seconded by Tim. Approved by B & T

Our next meeting will be on October 15, in the Conference Room at the Town Offices