

Sugar Hill Cemetery Trustees Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2024 at 6:00pm Crapo Building

Present: Leo Dickinson, Kathy Jablonski, Lynn Kenerson, Larry Sawyer.

Also present: Peter Carbonneau, Sexton.

Regular Business Meeting called to order at 6:10pm by Kathy Jablonski, Chair.

Approval of the Minutes

- Approve the minutes from August 8, 2024
MOTION: (Kenerson, Sawyer) to approve the minutes as amended.
VOTE: All in favor.

Sexton's Report

- Peter presented expenses to date.
- Luke Harvey was contracted to clean headstones and accomplished 170 stones in 2 days. His work was focused on the tiered, old section at the top of Sunnyside.
- The ongoing topic of fragile headstones was discussed, and it was noted that Bethlehem uses metal frames to hold broken stones together.
- Longchamps bench request:
MOTION: (Sawyer, Kenerson) that we give permission to the Longchamps family to install a 4' black granite bench on their plot per their letter submitted Sept 20, 2024.
VOTE: All in favor.
- Electrifying the shed: Dan Hines was contracted to do the work and it is done.
- New perennials from Sugar Hill Landscapes were planted at Sunnyside by Audrey Crowe.
- Gravel roads: Peter has been exploring a price for scraping them, with no progress to date.
- Paved roads: \$9,500 is the current estimate for paving the lower entrance to Sunnyside, but the upper entrance is also deteriorating. If we choose to repair the roads in 2025, we will either need to increase the regular budget or raise the funds through a warrant article. The trustees voted in August to raise the funds through a warrant article, but tonight's discussion showed that the topic is still up for debate. Peter will get an estimate on the upper portion.
- The picket fence at Streeter/Hannah needs to be replaced soon – Peter will get a price from the vendor who replaced the split rail fence there. Peter will also explore options for a gate.
- A local, non-Sugar Hill resident inquired about the possibility of purchasing a lot at Sunnyside. The trustees discussed the residency requirement for lot purchases and agreed that selling a lot under these circumstances would set a bad precedent.
- There were 3 instances of cremains dumped without permission at Sunnyside this season – one along the fence line, one at the base of a tree, and one on a specific lot. Our regulations clearly state that ashes may not be dumped or scattered anywhere in the cemeteries.

New Business

- Fall clean-up: Larry will remove all Veteran flags the day after Veterans' Day. Kathy will submit a notice to the town newsletter reminding visitors that seasonal decorations should be removed.

- Veteran flag holders/flags: Peter could order more flags for next year, and we are all set for flag holders. Larry will set aside the salvageable flags from this year and we could offer them in the spring to residents for seasonal displays. They are serviceable, but not in good enough condition to withstand another full summer of use.
- Streeter District / Hannah lot sales: The current/original map of the Hannah cemetery is outdated and includes burial lots of multiple sizes and dimensions. Lynn will draft a new map based on the layout of the Sunnyside addition, with the addition of a central pathway wide enough for a vehicle (if needed). Two lots were sold in the Hannah cemetery this season and RTIs will be sent as soon as the new numbering system is worked out. Peter has marked these new lots with cornerstones. The committee agreed that no lots will be sold in the Streeter District cemetery until the radar scan is completed next year. The concern is that new burials could impact existing, unmarked gravesites.
 - MOTION (Jablonski, Sawyer) to purchase 20 granite cornerstones.
 - VOTE: All in favor.
- 2025 Budget possibilities:
 - Radar scanning of Streeter District cemetery
 - Paving lower section of Sunnyside road
 - Paving upper section of Sunnyside road
 - Grading of gravel roads at Sunnyside
 - Fencing at Sunnyside (post & rail) and SD/H (post & rail and picket)
 - Electricity for shed (ongoing utility bills)
 - Monument cleaning
- 2025 Election: Larry will file paperwork to run for the open seat next year.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is November 14, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Crapo Building.

The December meeting will be held December 5, 2024 – a week ahead of schedule to facilitate budget work and annual report.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Kenerson, Secretary

These are the tabled items for future discussion:

- *Green burials*
- *Policy for replacing old/broken stones*
- *Landscaping at both cemeteries*