

# Essex Town Cemetery Commission Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 10:30am

Essex Town Clerks Office

## Essex Town Cemetery Commission Agenda

### Agenda

- Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment
- November 16, 2021 Minutes Approval
- Green Burials and Plot Repurchasing Discussion
- Turf Plan for MVC grounds.
- Burial Fee Increase.
- Plotting grave sites in Camels Hump Section
- Next Meeting Date
- Adjourn

**Essex Town Cemetery Commission Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021, 10:30 am**  
**Essex Town Clerks Office**

**Meeting Minutes – Draft**

**Present:** Joe Teagarden, Elaine Strunk, Sue Brown, Bob Covey, Sexton, Jenny Willingham, Administrative Liaison.

**Absent:** Joan Janzen

- 1) Call to order 10:35.
- 2) Approval of Minutes from 10/19/21 meeting by CC after correction by Bob that the phrase "At the Sexton's recommendation..." be withdrawn and the minutes be amended to read "After some discussion...the MVC will be closed on 12/1/21."
- 3) Public Comment – no members of the public were present.
- 4) Sexton's appointment was extended for 1 year. Bob signed the new contract and added how appreciative he was of Jenny's support (to him) over the past two years.
- 5) Additional lots in Section 3 of Camels Hump Section need to be marked out: Jenny will contact a surveyor (Joe Flynn) who has done work for the Town and other cemeteries. Sue will contact Fran Kinghorn, who measured out the original plots, about what resources she may have used.
- 6) **Preservation Maintenance Project (PMP):**
  - a. Jenny reported that the Rec. Dept. has agreed to apply the fertilizer, but do not have the staff to water.
  - b. Watering plan for newly seeded soil: Joe will meet with Dave Foster (Town Maintenance Dept.) regarding a watering plan and cost of equipment (sprinkler and 100' hose) for spring.
  - c. The vote by CC members was unanimous to approve the five year Preservation Maintenance Project with funding as described below.
  - d. Joe will two draft letters from the CC, one to Evan Teich (Town Manager) and the second to the Select Board notifying them of the PMP, the plan, reasons underlying it and financing. Using monies from the Restricted Cemetery Fund (\$61,805 total as of Oct. '21), the CC projects to invest approximately \$7,000/yr. for 5 year.  
Joe will also include the Sexton's contract in the letter to the Town Manager.
- 7) Contract with Bianchi for purchase of corner markers: after some discussion, it was decided to wait until spring to see if Bianchi is able to provide corner markers and at what price before renewing the contract. Jenny will also send out a bid request to Densmore, another monument company. Meanwhile, Jenny reported that the CC 2021 budget has a shortfall of \$150 (which will be covered from the 2022 budget) due to the increased price of markers this year. The remaining 2022 budgeted CC funds are \$2427.21.
- 8) The vote was unanimous to eliminate the additional \$50 fee for burials.
- 9) The vote was also unanimous to raise the cost of a cemetery plot to \$600 as of 1/1/2022 to bring it more in line with other local cemeteries.
- 10) CC agreed to the purchase of 25 inground urn markers (\$2/ 4"x4" slab) which will be used for all interments beginning next spring. Elaine will notify Tobe of this change. Bob will arrange purchase.
- 11) Miscellaneous:

- a. Jenny reported that Vaillencourt Tree Removal will look at the diseased tree in MVC and give her a price on its removal.
- b. Jenny also reported that the Freeman funds now had a \$0 balance.
- c. There were 12 burials this year ('21)
- d. At Jenny's recommendation, contact information will be added to the Certificate of Burial Rights form.

12) CC meeting minutes in the future are to be sent to [essexil@essex.org](mailto:essexil@essex.org) to post and copied to [clerk@essex.org](mailto:clerk@essex.org).

13) This is Jenny's last meeting though she may be able to assist with transition to the new staff THANK YOU! administrator. Her knowledge, energy and professionalism has been invaluable to the CC and to the extensive improvement of the Town's cemeteries over the last few years. We wish you all the best in the future. THANK YOU, JENNY!

NEXT MEETING – March 17, 2022, 10 am at the Town Offices.

Meeting adjourned 11:45 am.

Minutes submitted by Sue Brown, 11/26/21

VTIN CEMETERY COMMISSIONER

I, Roberta J. Bause would  
like to add the following heirs  
of my children to the ownership  
of mine and my husband's  
family plot at Mt. View Cemetery;

DENNISE L. BAUSE  
and JUSTIN R. BAUSE

Roberta J. Bause

Roberta J. Bause

3-3-2022

Roberta Bause  
18 Perry Dr.  
Essex Jct, VT  
05452

802-878-3157

Andy Watts &lt;awatts@essex.org&gt;

12/3/2021 8:28 AM

**RE: Cemetery Commission Update**

To: JOSEPH TEEGARDEN <jteegarden@comcast.net> • Evan Teich <eteich@essex.org> Copy  
Jenny Willingham <jwillingham@essex.org> • Elaine Strunk <strunk@champlain.edu> • Joan Janzen <jej134a@gmail.com> •  
Susan Brown <brown\_susan@comcast.net> • Bob Covey <bobkat100@myfairpoint.net> • Gregory Duggan <gduggan@essex.org> •  
Marguerite Ladd <mladd@essex.org>

Hi Joe,

I agree that the Selectboard does not need to take any action on this question. I will, however, ask Staff whether we have adequately funded support for cemeteries in our FY23 budget.

Thank you to you and the rest of the Commission for your service!

Best regards,  
Andy Watts

**From:** JOSEPH TEEGARDEN <jteegarden@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** Andy Watts <AWatts@ESSEX.ORG>; Evan Teich <eteich@essex.org>  
**Cc:** Jenny Willingham <jwillingham@ESSEX.ORG>; Elaine Strunk <strunk@champlain.edu>; Joan Janzen <jej134a@gmail.com>; Susan Brown <brown\_susan@comcast.net>; Bob Covey <bobkat100@myfairpoint.net>  
**Subject:** Cemetery Commission Update

Evan Teich, Essex Town Manager  
Andy Watts, Essex Town Select Board Chairman

Greetings Evan and Andy,

The Cemetery Commission has been meeting regularly and one important concern has been targeted for attention; the relative poor condition of the Mountain View Cemetery grounds. Specifically the lawn in the cemetery is very sandy, ridden with weeds, and in general poor shape. The soil and grass needs to be reinvigorated.

Dave Foster of the Essex Town Recreation Department presented a 5-year plan to the Commission that includes weed control, organic fertilization, seeding, and watering equipment. Dave reported that yearly treatments would very likely be effective and cost about \$7,200 per year. He also stated that his department could do the work.

As you may know, the Town maintains a restricted fund for preservation and maintenance (171-3-00-00-330.000) of the cemetery. This fund has grown to \$61,805.81 through the sale of cemetery lots. The Commission plans to tap this resource to pay for the above treatment plan and the purchase of watering equipment. The total would be \$36,000+.

Our group hopes this meets with your approval so we can begin next spring with the plan. We do not think it takes any formal action on the Select Board's part to approve this, but please contact me if we are mistaken or if there are issues that we have not foreseen. I would be happy to meet with either one of you to discuss this plan.

Thank you very much.

Joe Teegarden  
Cemetery Commission Co-Chair  
16 Chelsea Road  
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452  
802 872 8077(H)  
802 233 2319(Cell)

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Rec  
3-7-22

ATLANTIC GOLF AND TURF CO., PROPOSAL FOR GREEN MTN. CEMETERY, ESSEX, VT. 2021

RICK BRASSOR, TECHNICAL REP

413-824-1266

Green Mtn. Cemetery is a beautiful spot. It reminds me of my hometown cemetery in Northfield, MA. The shade of the trees, the older stones marking the passing of those we loved...and still do. I have been asked to present a scenario from which the committee for this cemetery and the village of Essex can arrive with a plan to improve the surface areas of the cemetery. It is my pleasure to accept this challenge and offer up what I feel is a proper direction with goals.

It has been shown to me that an agronomist from UVM had done some testing and come up with the same challenges I have seen even without the testing. I would offer the following as immediate challenges to confront and from which the committee will determine which direction and what goals should be achieved.

**Weeds:** Hawkweed is a very invasive weed which will take over the entire grounds of the cemetery unless something is done to curtail advancement. It exists in extremely poor soil profiles... very low organic value, acidic soils, dry conditions... it is so invasive that it will push out even crabgrass or dandelions to take over. Cure... improve organic matter... pre-emergent and post-emergent control of the weeds...find water to allow grass to grow.

**WATER :** the key element to life. Growing up in New England it was common for thunder storms to roll in late afternoon. I recall my mom and me sitting in rockers in our front screened in porch watching the thunder and lightning roll into town. It was not unusual for this to occur every afternoon. Rains are not so frequent in these times so irrigation has replaced the natural rainfall. But as the old Yankee within has said..." we don't need irrigation, it rains in New England." Time for changes to occur... the cemetery needs a supply of water for the revitalization of the turf, growing grass to outgrow the weeds.

**FERTILIZATION:** This is common amongst those that maintain athletic fields, or parks and recreation but groups like cemetery associations have not realized the disadvantages to their turf without having water. Of course the water in faucets around the cemetery is good for those who are watering their plants, trees, shrubs but forgetting the grass, allowing the weeds to invade... when did we lose the concern for the appearance of the cemeteries? In my opinion... it would be wise to remove the trees and shrubs growing around the headstones and make it a rule that only artificial ornaments can be used. Thus saving the water for the turf...Keep in mind that the larger trees that had been planted so close to headstones will eventually push up the foundations to these stones as the roots grow larger.

**INVESTMENT:** The following items are those necessary to save your turf from the inevitable invasion of weeds. Please give this proposal serious considerations. **YOU CAN REVITALIZE YOUR CEMETERY...**

Compost delivered to your cemetery is at \$40.00 per cubic yard. Your requirement for invigorating the soil with microbes and organic matter would require a minimum amount of 120-180 cubic yards

Organic fertilizer, Sea Blend fertilizer, to cover the entire area of the cemetery, approximately 3 acres would be 7 bags per acre or 21 bags X 3 times each year = 63 bags X \$50.00 per bag = \$3,150.00

Weed control in pre-emergent and post-emergent combined with fertilizer would be approximately 4 bags per acre X 3 acres = 12 bags... in early Spring 12 bags pre-emergent and in mid Spring 12 bags post-emergent each bag costing approximately \$51.00 per bag X 24 bags = \$1,224.00

Grass Seed: There will be a need to replace the empty spaces that will occur once the weed control takes effect. You must grow the grass seed in to the spaces left empty otherwise the weeds will return. You have a shade/sun mixture within the fence line which requires a seed which grows in both conditions. 3 acres at 3 bags per acre would be 9 bags X \$235.00 per bag = \$2,115.00

TOTAL INVESTMENT TO BEGIN YOUR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS TO YOUR CEMETARY IS \$6,489

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND 120 CU.YDS. OF COMPOST @ \$40.00 PER CU.YD. = \$4,800.00 THIS WILL KNOCK DOWN THE INDIAN PAINT BRUSH AND PROVIDE IMPORTANT MICROBES INTO YOUR POOR SOILS... ENCOURAGING IMMEDIATE GROWTH AS WELL AS HOLDING WATER AT THE ROOT LEVEL.

YOUR TOTAL DOLLARS (INCLUDING COMPOST) WOULD BE \$11,289.00

\$7383  
LAST QUOTE

January 22, 2022

Tobe Tomlinson  
6 Browns River Road  
Essex Jct., VT 05452  
802 879 1249

Greetings,

**2022 - Fees have increased**

Please be advised that the rates for 2022 are as follows and will be in effect for all grave openings including Spring 2022 spring burials:

\$ 800	Full grave opening & closing
\$ 375	Single Cremation opening & closings
\$ 475*	Urn vault* opening & closing

**Please note:**

**GRAVE CHECKS will be made out to: TOBE ZALINGER**

\*Fee for cremains involving an urn vault (DG Robertson), an urn vault holding another urn, an oversized urn (containing cremains of two people).

Please inquire regarding:

Holidays (during the year)  
Winter rates (after Dec 1<sup>st</sup>) *may* apply  
As per prior agreement, there will be  
no burials on Memorial Day.

Any questions or concerns, please call #879 1249 (home) #598 3387 (cell)

Happy New Year



Tobe Tomlinson