

Essex Cemetery Commission
Public Meeting Minutes (Draft to be approved)
August 17, 2021

Location: Essex Town Offices

Members Present: Elaine Strunk, Joan Janzen,
Joseph Teegarden, Sue Brown
Jenny Willingham, Town Administration Representative
Absent: Bob Covey, Sexton (see Sexton's Report, 8/11/221, attached)

1. Call to order 10:08 AM.
2. Minutes from June 22, 2021 approved and accepted.
3. Discussion about corner markers which, Jenny reported, are on back order at Bianchi's. Despite the delay, the Commission decided not to look to other stone providers at this time. There is also the issue of the \$45 increase in price from 2020 to 2021 and billing the difference to the couple of plot owners who were billed last year's price earlier this year before the 20221 rate had been received from Bianchi.
Sue will contact Bianchi about the status of the backordered cornerstones.
4. Sexton's Report – see below.
5. Jenny reported:
 - that she had paid \$865 to Bianchi for the engraving work ongoing.
 - The Town Maintenance Dept. (Tom Yandow) will repair and paint the small cemetery shed sometime after 9/15/21.
 - That seven plots and one niche had been sold over the summer.
 - She had been approached by persons wanting to dig a grave themselves. This not possible per CC rules and regulations.

- She has not received an invoice from Sammel for the numbers, which will go on posts indicating rows in the new section of MVC. Sue will follow up with Sammel. Sue will also contact Dave Foster (Rec. Dept.) about where to install them.

6. Other business:

- Weeds, ants and lack of soil continue to be issues at MVC. Joe proposed submitting a plan with request for extended funding to improve the ease of maintenance along with appearance of the cemetery. The time to submit requests for the 2022 Town budget is coming up next month. With this in mind, Joe will contact the Select Board Chair about the submission process. He will also meet with Dave Foster to come up with a plan and costs to submit to the Select Board for consideration. The CC will discuss this matter at the next meeting.

7. Next meeting: Sept. 21, 2021, 10 AM at the Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Brown

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**TOWN OF ESSEX – MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY
SEXTON’S REPORT – TO AUGUST 15, 2021**

WORK COMPLETED

- Full size interments – 0
- Cremation interments - 3
- Foundation layouts for memorials – 4
- Corner posts marking - 2
- General cemetery maintenance work – Approximately 15 hours – see comments below

- Received calls, e mails or in-cemetery comments on cemetery conditions or questions – 5

COMMENTS & OBSERVATIONS

I would like to thank the Town of Essex and MT. View Cemetery Commission for the opportunity to serve as sexton for the 2021 season. Once again, I have found everyone to be supportive, friendly and most cooperative.

To date, activity at the cemetery has been comparatively minimal. I have utilized this “quiet” period to not only do the spring clean-up but weeding the area around the columbarium and trimming shrubs in that area as well. Also, I have begun the large task of straightening smaller markers in the older section of the cemetery. There are many left to do and I will continue to work on this task as I can. We did receive a topsoil delivery earlier in the summer which I did not distribute due to the unsuccessful grass growth on last years distributed delivery. I note that some topsoil has been utilized, perhaps by individual lot owners, and I feel this is probably most effective in addressing lot owners’ concerns/complaints.

There are several items that could use attention prior to fall. The Commission is aware of the need to care for the exterior of the building, and I note it has not weathered well this summer with a good deal of peeling paint. Also, the immediate area around the columbarium continues to be quite unsightly with weed growth. I have cleaned the area twice this year and I am aware that Parks & Rec. did so once last year to no avail. Perhaps there could be a discussion among Commission members as to how we can creatively deal with this recurring challenge and, at minimum, request that Parks & Rec. periodically spray this area periodically with a non-toxic, environmentally safe grass/week killer.