

RJC Cemetery Committee Meeting

Friday, Oct 20, 2023, 3—5 pm

Present: Mj Hochberg, Carolyn Devlin, Barry Cohen, Brad Hart

Absent:

The meeting began at 3:10 pm.

The agenda for the meeting was emailed to the committee.

The meeting began with Carolyn D. presenting the Completed Survey and Plot maps. The new survey maps were happily accepted. Mj H. will present the new survey map with an index of interments to the Clarendon Town Clerk. It was noted that the Survey Maps need a signature; Carolyn D. will contact Mark Hoffman to acquire that. It was discussed that a section working map [like the ones we have] is helpful for day-to-day use. Carolyn D. will work on this for our next meeting.

A discussion ensued on Marking of the Plots. It is the desire of the committee that this task is done accurately and easily. The lawn mowing in the section was discussed, as there is a cost involved when the mowing must be done by hand. The surveyor did place rebar markers on the corners of the various new sections. Brad H. will inquire from Evergreen how they mark the individual plots, with what, where they get the markers, etc., and report back to us at our next meeting.

Fencing was discussed, and Mj H. reported that VT State Law requires private cemeteries to have a fence. There is, however, tremendous leeway in just what type of fence we decide is adequate. The wire fencing we currently have is not ideal, as continual repairs are often needed, and it opens the cemetery responsible for injury or damage claims. Barry C. will investigate options and report back at the next meeting.

The plots are **almost** ready to sell. However, the committee decided that we should update our policies and fees before we begin to sell plots. The committee will review the Cemetery Bylaws and review information on the RJC Website, and this will be the main topic of our next meeting. The committee unanimously agreed that the current policy of a \$50.00 reservation that lasts forever is not sustainable. Discussion ensued.

Mj H. was contacted by VT Commissioner and President of VOCA, Tom Giffin, about scheduling another Cemetery Workday. As our workday this year was so successful, I scheduled Sunday, June 2, 2024, with him as the date, with the following Sunday, June 9, as a rain date. Tom Giffin and VOCA have been invaluable resources for us as we navigate this expansion.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm

Next Meeting November 14, 2023, 10:00 am

Respectfully Submitted

Mj Hochberg

Rutland Jewish Cemetery Committee Chair

RJC Cemetery Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 10—11:35 am

Present: Mj Hochberg, Carolyn Devlin, Barry Cohen, Brad Hart Absent:

The meeting began at 10:10 am.

The minutes from the October 20 meeting were approved with a motion from Carolyn D, seconded by Brad H.

The meeting began with Carolyn D., who contacted Mark Hoffman and has not heard back from him. It was discussed that a section working map [like the ones we have] is helpful for day-to-day use, but Mj H. will bring a copy of the larger survey map and the new addition map to the Clarendon Town Office. Carolyn also discussed various sections of the website and made suggestions. Discussion ensued.

Brad H. met with Evergreen, asked our questions, and passed out copies with the answers regarding how they mark the individual plots, with what, where they get the markers, pricing of area cemeteries, etc. A discussion ensued regarding fees, etc. The discussion circled back to finances, and the question remains: what can we afford moving forward?

Fencing was discussed briefly, and Mj H. reported that VT State Law requires private cemeteries to have a fence. Vermont Cemetery Commissioner Tom Giffin relayed to Mj that since the surveyor marked the boundaries of the entire cemetery, we only need to focus on fencing the active area. Barry C. will investigate options for fencing and report back at the next meeting.

The plots are **almost** ready to sell. However, the committee decided to update our policies, fees, and the By-Laws before we sell plots. Carolyn and Mj will review the By-Laws and present their suggestions at the next meeting for discussion with the committee. The committee unanimously agreed that the current policy of a \$50.00 reservation that lasts forever is not sustainable and that a one-time fee for General Maintenance be instituted. Discussion ensued.

A brief discussion on our Cemetery Insurance policy and needs occurred. Barry will investigate this at the Board of Directors meeting tonight.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am

Next Meeting December 12, 2023, 10:00 am

Respectfully Submitted

Mj Hochberg

Rutland Jewish Cemetery Committee Chair

RJC Cemetery Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 10 am—12:15 pm

Present: Mj Hochberg, Carolyn Devlin, Barry Cohen, Brad Hart

Absent:

The meeting began at 10:10 am.

The minutes from the November 14 meeting were approved with a motion from Barry C, seconded by Carolyn D. The minutes were accepted.

Old Business

Fencing—Barry C. spoke with Bob Almeida with Homestead Fencing. The square footage of our fencing needs was discussed. Barry C will meet with Bob Almeida to discuss this further.

Insurance—Church Mutual Insurance's coverage for headstones and footstones was added to our plan for \$88.00 annually. Our liability insurance is \$30.00 annually. This brings our contribution to RJC for our coverage to \$118.00 annually.

New Business

Barry C. presented a chart of the last three years' income/expenses. A significant 360-degree discussion ensued, reviewing income, expenses, and the cemetery's financial needs. Brad presented the Evergreen model again for additional fees charged.

- It was noted that the Cemetery has not increased fees since 2006. This was almost 18 years ago.
- The inflation rate for the same period has increased by 49%.
- Comparative research has shown that most Cemeteries add a General Maintenance Fee.

Barry C. made a motion to **“increase the scheduled gravesite fees by 20% across the categories, except the non-member gravesite fee, which will be increased to \$3500. In addition, the Cemetery will establish a *General Maintenance Fee* of \$300.00, payable at the time of purchase of gravesite burial rights.”** Carolyn D. seconded this motion. This motion was unanimously accepted and passed by the Cemetery Committee.

A draft of the recommended By-Law changes was briefly discussed and will be on the agenda for the next meeting. In the interim, the committee will review the recommended changes that Carolyn D. and Mj H. distributed and bring their thoughts to the next meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm

The next meeting will be February 20, 2024, @ 10:00 am

Respectfully Submitted

Mj Hochberg

Rutland Jewish Cemetery Committee Chair