

DRAFT

RIDGEFIELD GRAVEYARD RESTORATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2023 6PM SCOTT HOUSE

PRESENT: Sara Champion, George Hancock, Mike Harrington, Susan Kweskin, Susan Law, Nancy Selander, Sarah Slavin, Tom McManus.

EXCUSED: Joel Third.

Nancy Selander called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. A warm welcome was extended to our newest members, Mike Harrington and Susan Kweskin.

Minutes of the November 21, 2022 meeting were unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Tom requested \$36,400 for the 2024 Town Budget. This reflects the increased costs for landscaping and tree maintenance work. He also reminded member to submit only copies of financial requests to him and to have owner's names clearly indicated on cemetery transactions. Pre-planning for expenses is always desirable and helpful when able.

Liaison with Sextons: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

1. Tree work – An old maple tree came down in Old Town, near the border of Ridgefield Cemetery. Possible damage to a headstone or two occurred. We are on a waiting list for its removal. Tree work is needed on Old Florida Cemetery and should be planned for during this winter season.
2. Spring Program - Waiting to hear if Jack Sanders is available one weekend.
3. Talk to the Ridgefield Men's Club March 1st. Susan Law and possibly Joel Third will present an overall view of our cemeteries and the work we do. If Joel is unable, another Committee member will assist.

New Business:

1. Grant Applications – The one for neglected cemeteries which we hope to apply for Old Florida must be generated by the Town and is due February 6th. Tom is mindful of this.
2. Susan Law is applying to the Ridgefield Thrift Shop for \$5,000 for tombstone restoration materials and tree work and plantings. This one is due January 31st. Tom reminded us that we have money from other donations to help with maintenance issues and a small committee will be formed to decide what would be the best projects.
3. Fall Cemetery Tour suggestions were to look into the Gilded Age era as we have already some bios available and the Community Center is promoting that theme. Also under consideration is the victims of the Spanish Influenza. The thought was presented to possibly expand the experience with a glimpse into the "living" aspects of the era. Pairing with the Keeler Museum on that aspect would be logical.

4. Dates for 2023 meeting: January 23, March 20, May 15, September 18, and November 20.
5. Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 1st.
6. The Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 29th. Hopefully we will have some members marching.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Susan Law, Recorder