

Essex Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

Wed., April 24, 2024, 12 pm

Essex Town Offices

Members present: Joe Teegarden, Sue Brown (scribe), Joan Janzen

Other attendees: Jenn Booker, Admin. Rep.; Ever Moore, Sexton

Meeting minutes:

1. Joe called the meeting to order at 12:05 am.
2. Public comment: none attended.
3. Minutes from previous Jan.31, 2024 meeting approved.
4. Joe announced that former CC member, Elaine Strunk, had passed away recently. Jenn had reached out to Elaine's daughter with condolences from the Town and CC. Elaine worked over the years she was on the CC compiling a list of veterans in the cemetery and overseeing the flags every Memorial Day. Her list of veterans and their locations will contribute to the ease of the present project, placing flags and flag holders for the 2024 Memorial Day.
5. Sexton's report: Ever noted that Bianchi's estimate to repair stones in the MVC did NOT include the crumbling monument which is large and has several names on it. Ever will research repairs and cost. Ever is also going to check for and note veteran status in future burials.
6. MVC Beautification and maintenance project: Joe reported that the Town is not able to aerate the soil (a key step prior to the application of the spring products) due to staff shortages. This is the final year of the Beautification Project, so the CC felt it was particularly important to follow through with the original plan. The CC unanimously approved the proposal to pay up to \$15,000 for aeration and purchase of previously designated product to cover the three applications for 2024. The initial proposal was presented by Sue Brown, seconded by Joan Janzen, amended with a cap \$15,000 by Joe Teegarden. It received a unanimous vote of approval by the CC. Jenn will meet with Allie about ordering the products and arranging for application and

aeration.

7. Military grave markers and flags: Joe reported that the local VFW is providing the markers (metal, rather than the originally proposed plastic ones) and flags for all graves where there is documented veteran status. Joe and Sue will install the markers and flags later in May before Memorial Day.

8. Administrator's update: a) Jenn reported that the community donation to the cemeteries thus far totaled \$467. (She noted that she had contacted some donors who had specified on their check that the money go for military markers; they all agreed to the generic donation and resolving the bookkeeping issue.) b) the first burial of the season is tomorrow; c) there is a tree near a gravestone in C/D section that needs to be removed. Jenn and Ever will handle it; d) a lot was sold (\$802); Jenn read Elizabeth's Thank You letter draft which is very nice, was approved and will to be sent to donors.

9. Next Meeting is Wed., June 26, 2024, Noon at the Town Offices

10. Meeting was adjourned 12:53.