

Approved: 11/8/2023

Paxton Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes from September 21, 2023
John Bauer Senior Center
Activity Room
17 West Street, Paxton, MA 01612

Present:

- ✓ **Vice Chairman:** Christopher D. Stone (CS)
- ✓ **Clerk:** Gorden E. Snyder, Jr. (GS)
- ✓ **Director of Public Works:** Travis Thibault (TT)
- ✓ **DPW Administrative Assistant:** Tiffany Sidhom

Absent:

- ✓ **Chairman:** Brian Brosnihan (BB)

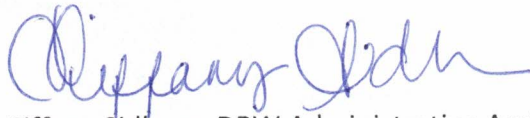
The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Subject	Discussion	Decision/Recommendation
Meeting Minutes	Review Meeting Minutes from the August 17, 2023 meeting.	Commission will pass this item to the next meeting as (BB) is not present and (GS) was not present at the August 17, 2023 meeting.
Mooreland Cemetery – Request from Historical Commission for sign for Major Willard Moore	(TT) presented a request from the Historical Commission to install a 3' x 3' sign on a post dedicated to Major Willard Moore. The sign will be placed between the entrance to the leaf dump and the first entrance to Mooreland Cemetery and will be similar to the sign that is installed near Richards Memorial Library.	Motion (CS) seconded (GS) to approve the installation of the sign as requested.
Mooreland Cemetery – Maintenance Updates	(TT): shared that there have been 3 rounds of fertilization this year, and one more will be attempted, if the weather cooperates. Hansson Lawn Maintenance (who applies the treatments) and (TT)	(CS) and (GS) agree that lime should be applied in future years.

	recommend applying lime at Mooreland in future years.	
Mooreland Cemetery – Maintenance Update (cont’d)	(GS) asked if there was an update on when the three dead trees at Mooreland can be removed. (TT) stated that the regional bucket truck was damaged while being used by another town that is part of the agreement. Repairs are being made but are not expected to be completed until January 2024. At that point, the truck will cycle through the towns in the agreement (i.e., Paxton is not next to receive the truck). (TT) said that the Commission can wait until DPW gets the truck and has time to take down the trees or (TT) can investigate costs to have a contractor come in and remove the trees.	The Commission agreed that they will wait until DPW gets the regional bucket truck and the time to take down the dead trees.
Mooreland Cemetery – New Monument Requests	Commission reviewed a headstone request for St. Laurent at 20 Oak East, plots 3 and 4.	Motion (CS) seconded (GS) to approve the headstone request for St. Laurent as it conforms to the size requirements that are stated in the Rules and Regulations.
Center Cemetery – Invoices from Historic Gravestone Services	<p>(CS) presented three invoices from Historic Gravestone Services for repairs to stones that were damaged in the Center Cemetery. One invoice, for \$600, was for a stone that was damaged during a car accident. Two additional invoices (one for \$1,200 and a second for \$600) were for stones damaged by routine mowing at the cemetery by DPW staff.</p> <p>(TT) confirmed that DPW staff did hit the two stones and that there was an underground bee’s nest in the area that startled the employee.</p>	<p>Motion (CS) seconded (GS) to pay all three invoices from Historic Gravestone Services from FY2024 Cemetery Purchased Services. The Commission hopes to receive reimbursement from the driver’s insurance company for the stone hit during the car accident, and reimbursement from the town’s insurance company for the stones hit while mowing.</p> <p>(CS) will begin writing a manual for proper procedures for mowing and other maintenance at the cemeteries to avoid damage in the future.</p>

Old Business	Headstone cleaning project at the Center Cemetery.	The Commission will reach out to Joanna MacGugan to see who is interested in volunteering for the stone cleaning project at the Center Cemetery.
Public Comments	None.	
Next Meeting		Not Scheduled
Adjournment		Motion (CS) seconded (GS) to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Tiffany Sidhom, DPW Administrative Assistant