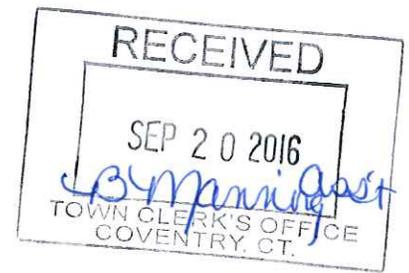


**Coventry Cemetery Commission Minutes  
September 14, 2016**



**Call to order and roll call**

Meeting called to order by chairman at 6:36 PM

Present: Mike Chapman, Tom Boudreau, Mike Merriam, Beth Bauer, Linda Pagliuco, Claudine Vieten. Absent: Patti Naegeli, Susan Palmer.

Welcome to Mike Chapman, who has now been voted in as a new commission member .

**Audience of Citizens** - none present

**July Meeting Minutes** - reviewed, voted, accepted.

**Review of Financials** - Beth Bauer

Little spending over the past two months; biggest expenditure thus far has been salary. Tree work and signage have been now been paid for with funds encumbered for the purpose in June.

**Nathan Hale Circumstance** - Mark Kiefer

Front wall - Mark and Todd Penney now initiating work on repairs. Earlier estimate provided by contractor was approximately \$6000, and that has been provided for in the current budget. Discussion about whether that work would fall under the ordinance allowing to omit bid process, and Mark will check into that.

Tree Work - A tree has been removed from South St. Preliminary discussion about replacing trees that need to be removed - there are some American elms that might be appropriate that the town owns already. It was suggested that a new tree be planted where the old one stood; need to determine if there is sufficient space next to the stone wall to accommodate it.

Guy Wire - the wire is now on Eversource's list for imminent removal. No replacement needed.

Contemplation area pathway - Work has been scheduled for late October.

**Caretaker's Report** - Mike Merriam

Sign at Grant Hill was apparently vandalized, pushed over at an angle by a car. There has been a run of graffiti and street signs being stolen or vandalized throughout that neighborhood down to Merrow Rd. Police were notified and are investigating.

Burials - two burials and two Coventry Cemetery cremation lot purchases have been completed since our last meeting.

Coventry Cemetery Sign - Mike will install the new sign in the next two weeks.

Quotes for pricing for new grave excavation - Mark reviewed the form he developed to send to contractors for quotes. Form was amended; he will send it to SAFE Excavation, D J Fowler Logging and Land Clearing, and Earth Dynamics.

New equipment purchase - Mark and Mike have selected new mowing equipment and will submit purchase orders.

Paving of contemplation area path - arranging to begin work late October.

Mike will continue efforts to arrange for Pietras representative to attend one of our next meetings.

Linda will contact another funeral director about providing us with guidance about columbaria and other cemetery trends, in light of the growing preference for cremations over full burials.

### **Other Old Business**

Flag Holders - Claudine has sent thank you letters to the donors.

Beautification - Despite extensive effort, most new plantings have not survived. Recommends eliminating efforts on the right side of the Center gateway, focusing on the more successful side.

Computer project - No new action; Beth intends to begin work in the coming winter.

Walktober cemetery tour - Linda has scheduled a tour at South St. on Saturday, October 1 at 1:00 PM. A notice has been posted on our Facebook page and in the Walktober brochures. Plans include reinstalling the footstone for Jonathan Loomis; Claudine will contact the Chronicle about a possible feature story.

### **Other Matters that may come before the Commission.**

Susan Palmer and Patti Naegeli have resigned effective mid October. They have fulfilled their responsibilities to the commission and have chosen not to continue.

Tom has requested that our November meeting date be changed from 11/9 to 11/16, which was done.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for October 12, 2016 at Public Works Conference Room.

Recorded and submitted by Linda Pagliuco, secretary.