

**Cemetery Commission Minutes - FINAL**  
**Thursday, June 15, 2023 @ 9am**  
**Abel's Hill Cemetery, Middle Rd, Chilmark**

**A. Approval of 5/10/23 Minutes** - approved unanimously

**B. Administrator report**

- 1. Budget** - Susan calculates our FY23 balance is \$4,172. Don Sexton will submit bill for 3 Spring mowings before July 1.
- 2. Plot applications** - No new applicants. A previous applicant whose property belongs to LLC has discussed the procedure with Judie and she will reapply.
- 3. Administrator applicant** - Judie attended the interview of sole applicant. She seems well-qualified with broad life experiences and is game for the challenge of serving numerous boards. Selectpersons will interview her tomorrow and we are invited to attend.

**C. Superintendent report**

- 1. Burials- past & upcoming** - Carlin/Melcher's cremains were buried during Susan's absence. Warren Gowell dug the hole and has been paid.
- 2. Pending application for a bench/perching stone** - The family has decided on and is currently shopping for a bench.
- 3. Update on Spring work/clean up - completed and future** - Road straightening, grass seeding, brush cutting and tree limbing are complete and the cemetery looks tidy and well-kept.

**D. Old Business**

- 1. Update on Gowell historical stone restoration** - Allen G. and his son Warren have our project in their queue. Warren will be lead on the AHC restoration.
- 2. Stockade fence on abutter property to the NE** - Laurisa composed 2 draft versions requesting fence repair or removal. We discussed and decided on version #2 to open the conversation and to also suggest tree planting as a screening option. Laurisa will bring draft to next meeting.

- 3. Update on historical cemeteries in Chilmark** - discussion postponed
- 4. Memorial Day flags** - discussion postponed
- 5. Volunteer Day** - discussion postponed
- 6. Tree Planting** - Tim Boland of PHA is happy to consult with Matt and offered to donate hardy trees from the arboretum greenhouse.
- 7. Rain Barrel care** - Matt has donated wood preservative and Laurisa will apply.

**E. Topics not anticipated -**

- 1. Stone near Sally Cook's plot** - Car wheel compaction around a stone at NW end of Bettlebung Avenue has created a driving hazard. We discussed various options and decided to add more split rails to square off corners on both sides of avenue.
- 2. Plots #274 & #275** - With completion of Bayberry Ave straightening, Judie and Matt voted unanimously to reopen these plots. Laurisa abstained, as directed by ethics attorney, as she intends to apply for #275.
- 3. New plantings on Bayberry Ave** - Pruning of shadbush, more lime and deep mulching is needed. Don will be brush cutting the area and along fence line.
- 4. Dogwood/Cedar mingling** - Commissioners consensus was to leave them be - preserving summer beauty and winter greenery. Matt will discuss with plot owner.

**Next meeting scheduled - August 10th, 9am**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:49 pm**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Laurisa Rich, Secretary**

**Documents Reviewed at meeting:**

Laurisa email sent 6-2-23, Subject: stockade fence abutter draft