

**HILL WEST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Montgomery, Vermont**

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting

Held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, 19 June 2019
Montgomery Town Library in the Montgomery Public Service Building

Formal actions of the meeting are noted in italics.

The meeting was called to order at about 6:15pm by President Jeffrey Jewett.

Members Present: Jeffrey Jewett, Earl Lumbra, Titus Presler, Nancy Lumbra, Sandy Bowman, Louise Feldman, Tom Tiller, Susan Alexander, Irene Jewett, Sheila Jewett Dragoon, and several others.

Visitors: Selectboard Chair Charlie Hancock, Montgomery Village Cemetery trustee Lois Lumbra.

Clerk's Report:

- Clerk Titus Presler presented the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting, held on 27 June 2017. *The minutes of both meetings were approved.*
- The Membership List was circulated for corrections and updating.
- The Clerk noted that holding this meeting in a municipal facility instead of in a member's home emphasized that Hill West Cemetery is town-owned and that all town citizens are entitled to attend the Association's meetings. It was gratifying that this meeting was attended by more persons had than attended previous annual meetings.

President's Report: President Jeffery Jewett said that he had been keeping up with members through telephone calls. He reported that two lots had been sold. He announced that Wayne Jewett was no longer able to mow the cemetery; the meeting thanked Wayne for his many years of service. Jeff said the new mower would be Daniel Stetson of DNK Landscaping.

Treasurer's Report: For income over the previous 12 months, Treasurer Nancy Lumbra reported a checking account beginning balance of \$1,217.47 as of 1 January 2019; deposits of dues and donations of \$283.00; lot sale of \$525.00; and interest of \$33.10; for a total income of \$841.10. Expenses were \$300 for two mowings. (\$200 had been requested from the Town of Montgomery for its customary support for two mowings. The checking ending balance as of 14 June 2019 was \$1,758.42. For the savings account she reported a beginning balance of \$2,076.56 as of 1 January 2019 and an ending balance of \$2,076.71 as of 14 June 2019. The certificate of deposit held \$16,564.36, with a four-year maturity date of 25 July 2019. *The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.* *After some discussion, the meeting voted to renew the Certificate of Deposit for an additional four years.*

Elections:

- The 2017 Bylaws state that the four officers will serve staggered two-year terms, the President and Clerk on one schedule, the Vice President and Treasurer on the other. In order to initiate this rotation the President and Clerk had been elected to two-year terms in 2018, the Vice President and Treasurer for one-year terms. Therefore at this meeting a Vice President and a Treasurer were to be elected for two-year terms.

- *The following were elected by unanimous votes:*
Vice President – for 2 years – Earl Lumbra
Treasurer – for 2 years – Nancy Lumbra
Trustees – each for 1 year – Gary Jewett, Earl Lumbra, Michael Jewett,
Nancy Lumbra, Titus Presler, Sheila Dragoon.

Town Relations: Proposed Consolidation of Montgomery Cemeteries:

By way of introducing the topic, it was noted that the 2017 Montgomery Town Meeting considered Article 10: “Shall the Town direct the Selectboard to investigate the consolidation of all Cemetery Commissions into one general Commission with oversight of all town owned cemeteries?” and that the Town Meeting had voted in the affirmative. It was noted that the 2017 and 2018 Annual Meetings of the Hill West Cemetery Association had discussed possible consolidation and had formally voted against it. It was noted that the Association understood clearly that the cemetery is owned by the town and that the Association manages the cemetery only on behalf of the town.

Selectboard Chair Charlie Hancock was present to discuss the matter. He explained that the Selectboard was concerned only to comply with state statutes, which the Selectboard understood to require a single cemetery commission. He emphasized that the Board had no criticisms of the Association or its administration of the cemetery.

Discussion was vigorous. Members stressed that no change was needed if it appeared there were no administrative problems to solve. Some noted that town administration prior to mid-century had allowed the cemetery to become derelict. It was noted that Title 18, Chapter 121, provisions 5362, 5373, 5375, and 5379 of the Vermont Statutes do not necessarily require that all town cemeteries be under a single commission and that they do not exclude the possibility of the Selectboard making separate provision for a particular cemetery to be administered differently under its oversight. Charlie Hancock stated that the Selectboard would continue to study the matter and planned at some point to convene members of the various cemetery administrations for a discussion.

As at past meetings, the consensus of the meeting was to oppose consolidation. The meeting expressed gratitude to Selectboard Chair Charlie Hancock for attending the meeting, clarifying the Selectboard’s concern and listening to the Association members’ views.

Other Business

Dues were received by the Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at about 7:45pm. Refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,



Titus L. Presler, Clerk