

**HILL WEST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
Montgomery, Vermont**

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting

Held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, 26 July 2023
Conference Room, Montgomery Public Service Building

Formal actions of the meeting are noted in italics.

The meeting was called to order at about 6:00 p.m. by President Jeffrey Jewett.

Persons Present: Officers: President Jeffry Jewett, Vice President Earl Lumbra, Clerk Titus Presler, Treasurer Nancy Lumbra. Members: Rebecca Blodgett Brush, Patrick Calecas, Brenda Deslandes, Raymond Deslandes, Amy Godfrey, Ruth Godfrey, Gary Jewett, Evelyn Jewett, Wayne Jewett, Kathryn King, Howard King, Ronald Lawyer, Stephen Rivers, Tom Tiller.

Clerk's Report:

- Clerk Titus Presler noted that the 2022 Annual Meeting was convened but then disbanded for lack of a quorum.
- Titus presented and reviewed the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting, held Thursday, 29 July 2021.
- The Membership List was circulated for corrections and updating.
- Tribute was given to the service of longtime Clerk and Treasurer Irene Jewett, who died June 30 at her home in Richford. Titus read her obituary and a sample of her minutes from 1982. A moment of silence was observed in her memory. Condolence was offered to her children Jeffrey and Gary, who were present.

President's Report: President Jeff Jewett said that he had been keeping up with members through telephone calls. He reported on lots that had been sold.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Nancy Lumbra reported as follows:

Beginning balances as of 1/1/23:

Checking \$2,384.47 + Savings \$1,969.69 + CD \$18,000 = Total \$22,354.16.

Income: Dues & Donations

\$260 + Lot Sale \$525 + Interest \$4.49 + Town Mowings \$200 = Total \$729.49.

Disbursements:

Mowings @ \$100 = \$600

Current Balances as of 7/2/21:

Checking \$2,513.96 + Savings \$1,969 + CD \$18,000 = \$22,483.65.

The maturity date for the Certificate of Deposit is 5 August 2024

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Elections:

The 2017 Bylaws state that the four officers will serve staggered two-year terms, the President & Clerk on one schedule, the Vice President & Treasurer on the other. The Clerk explained the current situation as follows: The Vice President & Treasurer were elected in 2019. No Annual Meeting took place in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, so all officers continued because of the coronavirus pandemic. The President & Clerk were elected in 2021. Elections were due to be held for the Vice President & the Treasurer in

2022, but did not take place for lack of a quorum. So this year election would take place for all four officer posts, but on staggered terms to restore the schedule.

Earl Lumbra stated that he preferred not to stand for reelection as VP. His service was acknowledged with thanks.

The following were elected by unanimous votes:

President – for 2 years – Jeffrey Jewett

Vice President – for 1 year – Kathryn King

Clerk – for 2 years – Titus Presler

Treasurer – for 1 year – Nancy Lumbra

Trustees – each for 1 year – Jeffrey Jewett, Gary Jewett, Earl Lumbra, Michael Jewett, Nancy Lumbra, Titus Presler, Amy Godfrey.

Other Business

- Update on relationships among Montgomery cemeteries – The Clerk reviewed the history of discussion of the proposed consolidation of all the Montgomery cemeteries. The 2017 Town Meeting asked the Selectboard to explore such consolidation and Selectboard Chair Charlie Hancock attended the 2019 Hill West Cemetery Assn. (HWCA) Annual Meeting to discuss the matter. HWCA had formally and consistently opposed the proposal. The Clerk reported that no further discussion had occurred since 2019. Discussion ensued, and members continued to express their preference for the current role of HWCA.
- Notices from Montgomery Historical Society – The Clerk reported that MHS Chair Scott Perry had stated that Pratt Hall in Montgomery Village continues to be available, free of charge, to any person who wishes to use that facility for memorial observances for the departed. Scott also noted that 2025 is the year that Hill West Cemetery will next be the site of the Memorial Day observance.
- Suggestion regarding cemetery signs – The Clerk reported that a person considering burial in Hill West Cemetery had suggested that one sign stating “No Shrubs, Trees or Fences” was sufficient, and that the current three such signs were off-putting. In discussion, it was stated that there is one sign on each gate, and that is necessary to communicate the message. Members’ consensus was for the current signage to continue.
- Dues – It was suggested that the dues be increased from the current \$5. During discussion it was noted that members are free to contribute more if they wish.
It was voted to keep the dues at the current \$5.

The meeting was adjourned at about 7 p.m. Refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Dues were received by the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,



Titus L. Presler, Clerk