

**Cemetery Commission**  
**P.O. Box 203**  
**Bakersfield, VT 05441**

**Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting, unapproved**

The Bakersfield Cemetery Commission met at the Bakersfield Town Hall in the early evening of April 25th for our Annual Meeting of 2024. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM.

We welcomed Janet Machia as our recently appointed member to the Cemetery Commission for a term of five years.

Maria DeRosia, who has been serving as our Groundskeeper for Maple Grove Cemetery and the Town Common, was present to discuss the amendment to her 2024 contract which excludes care of the Town Common. The amended contract and expands care in the cemetery which allows for the monetary compensation to remain the same. Maria provided the required W-9 with the required Certificate of Insurance pending. Maria asked if the portion of green in the Town Road ROW would be maintained by the Road Crew along with the ROW portion of the Town Common, noting that the terrain of that section made it difficult to cut. Linda noted that this portion of the cemetery is similar to the ROW frontage of homeowners that a homeowner would mow to compliment the appearance of their property. That said, we would ask the Road Commissioner about this ROW portion of cemetery property. It was noted that the limbs and two trees that were downed by the storm of January 9th has been cleaned up by a group of volunteers.

A contract with Maria has been signed for Groundskeeping of Maple Grove Cemetery for 2024 and 2025, however the contract is contingent upon the Cemetery Commission receiving a Certificate of Insurance for both 2024 and 2025.

No contract has been signed for groundskeeping of Cook Cemetery.

An election of Cemetery Commission Officers was held with the following results:  
**Chairperson** - Linda McCall was nominated by Heather Tanner and seconded by Janet Machia. Linda was elected with a 3-0 vote.

**Vice-chairperson** - Janet Machia was nominated by Heather Tanner and seconded by Linda McCall. Janet was elected with a 3-0 vote.

**Clerk** - Linda McCall was nominated by Heather Tanner and Seconded by Janet Machia. (With no one else wanting the job!) Linda was elected 3-0 vote.

**Sexton** - Ron Marcotte was nominated by Linda McCall and seconded by Janet Machia. Ron was elected with a 3-0 vote.

**Hearse House:**

- Application for inclusion on National Registry of Historic Buildings is near completion. The application that was started by Nancy Hunt was in need of completion. During the COVID 2019 period, the application paperwork was changed. We have a UVM graduate of Historic Preservation, Will Gansle, who is assisting with this application process. He was at the building on April 14th to photograph the building, inside and out. Linda will be paying him, out of pocket, for his assistance with this task.

**Hearse House (cont.):**

- The building is in need of stabilization pending obtaining sufficient funds to do the major work needed. The partition between the hearse garage and the workshop/storage area is a load bearing wall that no longer has support. The building is buckling and needs immediate attention. Mike Lanphear has been contacted and has identified work needed to stabilize the building. Estimated cost of stabilization, at this point, is within our means and might not require a written contract. (Work to be done on a labor and materials basis with volunteer help welcome.) We need group approval to have him go ahead with the required work. Ron Marcotte made the motion to have Mike Lanphear stabilize the building. Heather seconded the motion. Motion carried with 4-0 vote.
- To fund the major repairs/restoration on the building, we will need donations and grant monies. Having the building on the National Historic Register will be beneficial when applying for grants. It was put for vote to get the building on the National Historic Register and apply for grants to help fund these repairs and restoration. Janet made the motion and Ron seconded it. It carried 4-0.

**Fence** - tabled - though remaining vigilant on possibilities for type, style and funding. Needs to be on future budgets.

**Expenses:**

- Water use - \$140
- Stone cleaner - D/2 --2 gallons
- Flowers for the urns -- 14 urns

**Projects:**

- Clean stones - volunteers & Cemetery Commissioners
- Scrub, prime and paint urns - volunteers & Cemetery Commissioners
- Up-date By-Laws - Commissioners with community input

**Meetings:**

- Motion was made by Linda and seconded by Heather to have meetings quarterly. Motion so voted with 4-0
- Next meeting will be July 17th at 5:30 PM

**Other business**- none

**Adjourn:** Heather made the motion to adjourn at 6:53 PM. Ron seconded. So voted 4-0

Submitted by Linda McCall