

BRIDPORT BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, that began at 3:00 P.M. at the Bridport Masonic/Community Hall in Bridport.

Present: David Bronson, Paul Wagner, Mark Pumiglia, David Basque and Francis
Bronson

All approved of the respective minutes of the Board's January 9, 2020 Meeting as submitted by David Bronson, Assistant Secretary.

All approved of the election of officers to serve until the next annual election as follows:
David Bronson = Chairperson, Sexton, Assistant Secretary
Paul Wagner = Assistant Sexton
David Basque = Assistant Chairperson
Francis Bronson = Secretary

David Basque said he planned to run again for the Board when his current term is up in 2021.

David Bronson reported the 8 replacement gravestones for Pine Hill Cemetery from Clegg's Memorials were finally delivered in April and have been put in place. William Smith took the old broken remains of the Hiram Smith gravestone.

David Bronson handed out copies to everyone of and reported on his letters TO:
Town Treasurer, Katie King of:

May 26, 2020 authorizing \$6,000.00 of Central Cemetery Funds to be transferred from its Money Market Account to its Checking Account and payment therefrom of a \$2,166 Bill of Granite City Tool Co. of Vt. Inc. for 60 gallons of D/2 Biological Solution;

June 3, 2020 confirming the aforesaid \$2,166.00 payment;

June 7, 2020 for \$1,500.00 payment for purchase of three burial lots in the Central Cemetery by Robert and Julia Ranney to the Central Cemetery Checking Account;

June 19, 2020 for:

- = explaining the Grader Loan and allocation of its \$1,131.33 interest all to the Central Cemetery Checking Account except with \$117.66 thereof eventually going to the Town Line and Pine Hill Cemeteries Money Market Account;
- = authorizing \$9.22 be paid from the Central Cemetery Checking Account to the Bridport Congregational Church for Hilda Hunt Water Fund payment;
- = authorizing payment of \$2,000.00 from the Central Cemetery Checking Account to the Town towards expense of mowing/trimming the Central Cemetery in 2020; and

= authorizing payment from the Central Cemetery Checking Account of the \$1,083.00 Bill of Granite City Tool Co. of Vt. Inc. for 30 gallons of D/2 Biological Solution;
June 29, 2020 authorizing payment of a June 22, 2020 \$7.59 Bill for a bag of mortar to Broughton's Farm Supply from the Central Cemetery Checking Account;
September 3, 2020 with \$100.00 donation to the Central Cemetery funds by George "Butch" Naylor and Elaine Naylor as a thank you for all the cleaning done on gravestones there; and
Keri Brown of June 29, 2020 for the \$9.22 water money to the Bridport Congregational Church.

David Bronson handed out a copy to everyone of a September 2, 2020 email from the Town Treasurer reporting on a \$100.00 donation to the Central Cemetery funds from Alton, Ann, Charles and Paul (last names unknown) who appreciated the gravestone cleaning.

David Bronson handed out a copy to everyone of an August 5, 2020 \$7.59 Bill for a bag of mortar from Broughton's Farm Supply for payment from Central Cemetery Funds.

David Bronson handed out a copy to everyone of an October 12, 2020 Bill from Craig L'Heureux for \$828.00 for mowing, etc. of Town Line Cemetery in 2020. All approved of its being paid from the Town's Cemetery Budget Account.

Instead of paying what would have been higher shipping costs for the purchased 90 gallons of D/2 Biological Solution, David Bronson requested he be paid \$198.95 for his two car trips to Barre for it of 346 miles at 57.5 cents per mile. He also requested he be reimbursed for the following:

- a June 23, 2020 \$41.85 Bill from Martin's of Middlebury for metal supplies used to restraighten a gravestone in the Central Cemetery (a copy of which was handed out to everyone); and
- \$83.25 for reimbursement for 37 gallons of fuel at \$2.25 per gallon (32 gallons of non-ethanol gas he used in pressure washers and 5 gallons of diesel fuel used in his tractor).

With David Bronson abstaining, everyone else approved of paying him the requested \$324.05 from Central Cemetery Funds.

David Bronson handed out a copy to everyone of Paul Wagner's November 5, 2020 Billing of 53.5 hours work in 2020 re-straightening gravestones in the Central Cemetery, which at \$20.00 per hour, came to a payment for \$1,070.00. With Paul abstaining, everyone else approved of paying him the \$1,070.00 for payment initially from regular Town funds and with authorization for payment from Central Cemetery funds to reimburse the Town for the \$1,070.00 plus any other Town associated expenses such as social security and medicare taxes.

David Bronson handed out a copy to everyone of Kim Bronson's December 7, 2020 Billing of \$140.5 hours work in 2020 for cleaning and re-straightening gravestones in the Central Cemetery, which at \$20.00 per hour, came to a payment of \$2,810.00. All approved of paying him the \$2,810.00 for payment initially from regular Town funds and with authorization for the payment from Central Cemetery funds to reimburse the Town for the \$2,810.00 plus any other Town associated expenses such as social security and medicare taxes.

David Bronson reported that for at least the last couple of years whomever has been plowing snow for the Bridport Congregational Church for reaching its propane tanks has been hitting gravestones hidden under the snow. Paul said he would put up some markers for the winter time for locating gravestones in the area.

All confirmed approval of all of the before described 2020 Cemetery expenses and of their being paid from Central Cemetery funds except for the Craig L'Heureux Bill.

David Bronson reported on the cleaning of gravestones and other stone markers in the Central Cemetery in 2020. Eighty-eight gallons of D/2 Biological Solution were sprayed on gravestones to try to kill lichens and other growths before any cleaning was done. Except for about 125 gravestones previously cleaned, cleaning was done on all the other stones by him and Kim Bronson. Kim used his pressure washer and worked 38.75 hours. David used the Town's pressure washer and his tractor and worked 118 hours.

David Bronson reported on gravestone and other stone markers re-straightening, etc. work in the Central Cemetery in 2020. He and Kim Bronson did such work on about 430 stones. David worked 128 hours and Kim worked 101.75 hours. The work of David included mortar patching on about 40 stones. The 53.5 hours of work by Paul Wagner was on about 50 stones.

David Bronson explained he was trying to update information on gravesites and how to find them. He handed out to everyone a copy of a Preliminary Draft of a plan of the lots in Wells Cemetery and a copy of a typed up gravesites' information and new assigned lot location on such plan for Wells Cemetery. Before this, basically all gravesites' information for all the Cemeteries has been handwritten starting with a version done back around the 1970's. He said he has done this with both the Town Line Cemetery and the Pine Hill Cemetery. He had a sample copy of a Preliminary Draft plan for each of these two Cemeteries for everyone to view. David said he has spent about 80 hours on this project. He said he plans to start doing the same for the Central Cemetery.

David Bronson reported he had similarly contributed at least 40 additional hours in 2020 on other cemetery matters such as cleaning up trash, marking gravesites and trimming trees, brush, bushes and grass, etc.

All approved of having Craig L'Heureux do the mowing/trimming of Town Line Cemetery for 2021 if he wants to.

All approved of the following:

THAT towards the mowing/trimming costs for the Central Cemetery, the Town be paid from Central Cemetery funds \$2,500.00 for 2021 and \$1,000.00 for May-June of 2022 and

THAT the Town is asked to have \$1,500.00 for a 2021 Town Cemetery Budget Account.

All approved for payment from Central Cemetery funds of the cost of putting up existing wood fencing in general along the easterly boundary of the Central Cemetery to include any additional fencing to do so.

All approved of purchasing and installing signs identifying the rows in each of the Cemeteries with Central Cemetery funds for the Central Cemetery and with Town Cemetery Budget funds for the other Cemeteries.

All approved payment in 2021 to the Bridport Congregational Church of interest from the Hilda Hunt Water fund which is expected to be between \$3-4.00.

With David Bronson and Paul Wagner abstaining, everyone else approved of the Board's Grader Loan being able to be extended from in July to as far as in December of 2021 for payment of its principal and with additional interest; along with Paul Wagner being the agent for the Board for executing any written extension.

With David Bronson abstaining, everyone else approved of David Bronson being authorized to approve orders and expenditures of the Board for 2021.

Paul left the meeting for a prior commitment.

David Bronson, Mark Pumiglia and Francis Bronson approved of using Central Cemetery funds to do any of the following in the Central Cemetery: to have the most southerly Maple Tree along the east boundary taken down and away, and to have any needed trimming of dead and/or dying limbs in other trees cut and taken away. David Basque abstained for reasons of wanting to check more on the condition of the trees. The plan is for he and David Bronson to further review their condition.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully, David A. Bronson
David Bronson, Assistant Secretary

