**ATHENS CEMETERY COMMISSION**

**Draft of minutes of April 13,2022 meeting**

. The meeting was called to order by Donald Capponcelli at 6:04PM. Present were Don, David Bemis and Jim Neathawk, commissioners. Matt Perry was in attendance at the beginning of the meeting.

**. Public Comments** – Road Foreman Matt Perry, with help from Ivor Stevens, has sourced top stones to restore the top of the back (west) section of the stone wall which provides the border for the Valley Cemetery. Seeing there are no objections from the Commission, the Athens Road Crew, consisting of Matt and Eugene Bills, will be restoring the top of the wall in coming months.

. The minutes of the December 1, 2021 meeting were approved without any additions or corrections (Dave Bemis moved to accept; Jim Neathawk seconding; all 3 commissioners in attendance voted to approve).

**. Annual Re-organization** – Dave Bemis nominated Don Capponcelli for a one-year term as chairman and secretary. Seconded by Jim Neathawk. All 3 commissioners voted to approve. Don appointed Harold Noyes and Steve Oakes to make regular checks on the Valley Cemetery and Dave Bemis and Jim Neathawk to make regular checks on the West Cemetery throughout the coming season.

**. Financial Update** – There have been no receipts or expenditures since the beginning of the year. No veteran flag purchases will be necessary until 2024. Taxpayer-approved funds in the amount of $3,000.00 will be forthcoming after the September, 2022 tax collection date.

**. Grounds maintenance contract for 2022 season** – Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance has quoted $3,000.00 for maintenance of the cemeteries this season. The $500.00 increase is the first increase in the seasonal contract since the arrangement began about a decade ago. Don felt that it was unnecessary to put the contract out to bid since it is below $5,000.00 and because the Commission had noted this past fall how pleased it was with the grounds work by the Ivor Stevens crew. Dave Bemis added that the Town of Rockingham recently could not find any private contractors to bid on the maintenance of its cemeteries.

**. Valley Cemetery** – There was no new business specific to the Valley Cemetery.

**. West Cemetery** – Don once again expressed the hope of completing the row markers in the new section of the West Cemetery. Don has been in contact with Matt Perry regarding possible changes to the chain link fencing at the site.

**. The date of the next meeting** will be Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 6PM at the Athens Town Office unless otherwise warned.

. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21PM (David Bemis moved to adjourn; Jim Neathawk seconding; all 3 members voting to approve).

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Capponcelli, Chairman