**ATHENS CEMETERY COMMISSION**

**Draft of Minutes of Dec. 2, 2020 video meeting**

. The meeting was called to order at 6:05PM by Chairman Don Capponcelli. Present were Don, David Bemis, Steve Oakes and Jim Neathawk, commissioners. There were no members of the public present.

. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

. The minutes of the June 3, 2020 meeting were approved without additions or corrections (Dave Bemis moved to accept; Steve Oakes seconding; all four commissioners voting to approve).

**. Financial Update** – Expenses for the year, all charged to the Operating Budget, include a loan to the Colton Trust Fund of $31.53, a loan to the Holden Trust Fund of $162.58, WW Building Supply $31.34 (Memorial Rock flag), The Flag Shop $154.08 (veterans’ flags), and Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance $2,500.00 (seasonal maintenance contract for both Valley Cemetery and West Cemetery). No plot sales for the year. Annual stipend from the Town of Athens was $4,000.00 for 2020. Beginning of year balance was $21,365.26. End of year balance is $22,485.73 in the Town Ledger; adding-in outstanding loans to Colton and Holden accounts, total assets are $22,679.84.

 David Bemis moved to accept the financial report; seconded by Steve Oakes. All four commissioners voted to approve.

**. Budget request for 2021** from the Town of Athens – Don Capponcelli moved that $3,000.00 be requested from the Town of Athens for the 2021 budget. Seconded by David Bemis. Discussion followed- In the previous 2 years an extra $1,000.00 had been requested in order to build up the West Cemetery Construction account in anticipation of future paving, gates and other improvements. The Commission will withhold this request for this year. Carried to a vote and approved by all four commissioners present.

**. Valley Cemetery** – The June 20’th work day was attended by Don Capponcelli and Lynn Morgan, who levelled monument bases. Orange flagging marks about 20 additional tablets and monuments needing the most immediate attention. Thanks goes out to Matt Perry and Eugene \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Athens Road Crew for rebuilding a section of wall on the east perimeter. Eugene has also made chairman Don aware of a new type of epoxy which is performing well with monument and tablet repair- Don will look into this and come back to the April, 2021 meeting with a budget request to try the product.

**. West Cemetery** – No progress in 2020 with regard to the installing of row markers. Jim Neathawk suggested that the Commission look into upgrading the access road with a portion of the “road builder” materials stockpiled by the Town of Athens. Said product includes about 1/3 crushed & recycled concrete mixed with ¾-inch stone and stone dust. The product is working extremely well on our town roads. Don asked whether the Commission would have to vote to approve the expense of two loads needed to upgrade the first portion of the access road up to the large pine tree at the top of the first slope. David Bemis thought that since the access road was a town right-of-way that two loads could come out of the town road budget. Both Don and David will talk to Road Commissioner Matt Perry.

**. Memorial Rock** – Thanks went out to Matt Perry for removing a tree that the Memorial Rock flag was rubbing against and tattering. The flag was replaced on Veterans’ Day, 2020. Don and Steve Oakes talked briefly about possible repairs to the telescoping flagpole.

. There were no public comments.

**. Date of next meeting** was set at Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 6PM, location and format to be determined.

. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22PM (Steve Oakes moved to adjourn; Dave Bemis seconding)

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Capponcelli, chairman