**ATHENS CEMETERY COMMISSION**

**Draft of minutes of January 3, 2024 special meeting**

. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Capponcelli at 6:06PM. Present were Don, David Bemis, Harold Noyes, Jim Neathawk and Steve Oakes, commissioners. There were no members of the public present.

. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

. Steve Oakes moved that the Commission warn a stand-alone article in the amount of $3,500.00 for the maintenance of the Athens cemeteries in 2024. Seconded by Jim Neathawk.

* In the discussion that followed, Don Capponcelli shared the Cemetery financial report at the close of 2023. Of the total $23,180.62 in cemetery liquid assets, 2023 ended with an Operating Budget surplus of $684.41. Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance will be able to continue full services in 2024 for the $3,000.00 seasonal fee. On January 2, 2024 Don committed $260.32 (plus shipping costs) of the operating surplus toward the purchase of veteran flags and veteran grave markers. It is good to have an additional $100.00 on-hand for plot pins, grade stakes and minor repairs.
* At Town Meeting Don would review the annual Cemetery Commission Report and highlight the different allocations for the Cemetery liquid assets. He felt that other commissioners will have to speak in favor of the article for it to be successful.
* In further discussion it was felt that the current level of grounds maintenance lends to a positive image for the town, and the Commissioners hope to maintain this level of care.

The motion was carried to a vote and passed, with all 5 members voting to approve.

. There were no public comments.

. The date of the next regularly-scheduled meeting is April 3, 2024, 6PM, Athens Town Office unless otherwise warned.

. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17PM (David Bemis moved to adjourn; Steve Oakes seconding).

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Capponcelli