**ATHENS CEMETERY COMMISSION**

**Draft of** Minutes of June 3, 2020 meeting

. The meeting was called to order at 6:07PM by Chairman Don Capponcelli after a brief tour of the Athens Valley Cemetery grounds. Present were Don, David Bemis and James Neathawk, commissioners. There were no members of the public present.

. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

. The minutes of the Sept. 4, 2019 meeting were approved with no additions or corrections (Dave Bemis moved to accept; Jim Neathawk seconding).

. The minutes of the Dec. 4, 2019 meeting were approved with no additions or corrections (Don Capponcelli moved to accept; Jim Neathawk seconding).

**. Annual re-organization** – Dave Bemis nominated Don Capponcelli to be chairman and secretary for the current 1-year term. Seconded by Jim Neathawk. Carried to a vote and passed.

**. Budget Update** – Don did not have a printed financial statement ready for the meeting, but will e-mail one out in the coming days and enter the report into the minutes book. Expenses in the current year to date are:

1. A total $300.00 in loans to the Stella Holden and Charles Colton cemetery trust funds in order to get those account balances over $500.00 each, thereby avoiding newly-imposed monthly bank charges.
2. Approximately $290.00 incurred with The Flag Shop of Vermont, which had accidentally doubled the flag order from 72 flags to 144.

Ivor Stevens Grounds Maintenance will continue maintaining the grounds in both the Valley and the West Cemeteries for the 2020 season for the $2,500.00 combined seasonal rate.

Don is to contact the Flag Shop to inquire about any possible adjustments in billing as a result of the doubling of the flag order. The Commission will keep the extra flags, therefore the next order date for more flags will not be until April, 2024.

Dave Bemis appealed to the Commission to avoid any optional expenses this season, in the event that Town budgets may have to be trimmed for the 2021 fiscal year.

**. Valley Cemetery –** There was no progress on map & records update.

* Two marble tablets and one monument, all of which seemed stable this past fall, have toppled. The two tablets have broken in half. Don has advertised for a volunteer work day on Saturday, June 20, from 9AM to 1PM. Projects will include tablet & monument levelling as well as stone wall rebuilding. Locations of the various projects will allow volunteers to be spread out. Masks will be required for separation distances closing-in on 6ft.
* Sandi Capponcelli submitted a letter to the Commission with regard to the placement of veterans flags on both of the Grace Smith gravesites at the south end of the cemetery. Both appear to be in error. Sandi attached her research on both Smiths, including copies of death certificates and obituaries. There is no indication or hint of military service on the part of either. David Bemis moved to have the Commission remove both flags. Seconded by Jim Neathawk. Carried to a vote and passed. Hard copies of Sandi’s research will be posted in the minutes book at the Town Office.

**. West Cemetery** – There continues to be a need for tablet & monument work at the West Cemetery, but the Valley Cemetery needs are more urgent at this time. Don Capponcelli is to continue to make progress on the row markers in the new section of the cemetery.

. There were no public comments.

**. Date of next meeting** will be Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020, 6PM, at a location to be determined.

. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Capponcelli, Chairman