



MEETING MINUTES

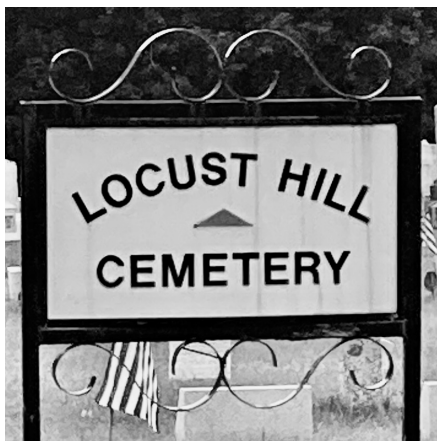
Monday, September 18, 2023

In person

Montague Senior Center

1. **Roll call;** Judith Lorei, Mary kay Mattiace, Jo-Ann Prescott, Annie Levine, and Jamie Fuller.
2. **Minutes** for August approved
3. **Updates:**
 - A. **Highland Woods**
 - a. **Sign;**

- . Discussion about likeness to the Locust Hill Cemetery sign.
- . measurements of 35"H and 37" wide.
- . ? font to be used similar to other Montague signs
- . Using scroll around the sign work that fits with the work on the entrance to the main cemetery
- . There's a general consensus that the design of the Locust Hill Cemetery sign in Montague Center is a preferred design for Highland Woods
- . Discussion followed regarding details on font, added art work, etc..
- . MK noted that Hale's made that sign years ago. An email has been sent to them requesting feedback on the possibility of their making this sign



for us.

- . Name on the sign to be **Highland Woods Natural Burial Ground.** Judith will update the documents to reflect the change in name.
- . \$4000.00 to be allocated for the project after approval from Town

Meeting. October 10th.

- . Expect sign up as early as Dec. 1st or if not possible, next Spring.
 - b. Plantings;:**
 - . The planting in the main cemetery garden area all but died. **MK and Annie** will discuss and try other types of plants for sustainability.
 - . Several of last fall's plantings in the wildflower garden did not survive. **MK** will talk to **Annie** about how to proceed with this year's plantings.
 - Still need the 2-4 yards of compost for Highland Woods garden. Goal was to plant early September. **Annie** will check with **Laura** to see if late September or early October are a possibility. If not, planting will be in the Spring.

c. Seating in Highland Woods;

MK and Jo-Ann met with **Walker** at the end of August about the stumps cutting for the entry area. He is willing to cut and transport the black locust stumps to the area. Consensus of between 10 and 20 should be sufficient. **Judith** noted that a few hundred dollars from the ? fund would be available to pay for **Walker's** services. **MK** has not heard back from **Walker** and will touch base with **him Walker** by mid October to see the progress.

d. The access road was finally fixed by DPW. DPW has completed the road work at Highland Lawn. Comments are already forthcoming. Encouraged to give accolades to the DPW.

B. Old South;

a. Clean-up complete

. There are still some low lying branches that need to be cut, but otherwise the area is beautiful! You can see the stone wall inside and from the road.

C. Burnham;

a. Misplaced headstone will be moved.

b. A lot of overgrowth needs to come down around the stones.

Commission members are invited to meet together in early October for a few hours of clean-up. It will be announced on the town website.

D. East Mineral and Chestnut Hill;

a. Both look great

E. Fairway;

a. Looks great

4. Sustainability Planning;

- **A. Board of Health meeting tomorrow. Judith will ask about their decision on a burial coordinator, which all on the board agreed will be called a Sexton.**
- Judith will attend the BOH meeting this week to follow up on our
- request for oversight/guidance regarding the suggestion of burial coordinator for the Town.
- In conjunction with that announcement, a discussion followed on an
- improved name for such a position. A unanimous decision was made to name the position/person a Sexton.
- Judith sent the BOH a job description of the Sexton's role.
- This is to be a paid position. The Sexton will be paid by fees collected for such services as selling plots, identifying plot sites for burial, digging for cremains' burials, etc..
- It includes selling plots
- Identifying plots/burial site

5. Other Business;

A. MK and Jo-Ann visited Mike Fleming about the possibility of stone benches. The thought was that they would not easily be carted off and there would be essentially no upkeep. He will be working on 5 benches this winter and we could look at what he has in the Spring. If there is nothing we can use, then he will help us with our design. The rock benches would also fit into the esthetics of the area. **A rough estimate for each bench is around \$800-\$1000 each.** Annie will find out how we can get money for the benches. This may have to be discussed at the Town Meeting in the Spring for its allocation.

B. Cemetery Emergency Fund;

- a. \$1600 left from the original \$10,00 for Highland Woods.
- b. \$9700 made since May with the burials that have been done.?? This money has to be accessed through the Town Meeting approval. Can we find out if we can just access this money when we need it?

C. MCC home base?

- No one oversees us. We have no official support.
- Can we become our own entity with our own governance?
- ? The BOH and DPH interest...

- Other cemeteries in the area are going to keep coming to us and ask to take them on.
- **a.** Should the town take the responsibility on?
- **b.** Does this come under the auspices of the Cemetery Association 501C13?
- **c.** Should we have an information sharing meeting with everyone running a cemetery in Montague?

D. Meeting Schedule thru 2023;

- a. Monday, October 16th**
- b. Monday, November 13th**
- c. Monday December 11th**

Assume all meetings will be held at the Senior Center unless otherwise notified.

E. Scrapbooking our progress as a committee

a. Jo-Ann is willing to take this on. Please send me pictures of before and after if you have them. You can email them or send them to me on my phone 413-668-0899.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm
Respectively submitted,
Jo-Ann T. Prescott