

Vermont Cemetery Association
Tuesday, October 18th, 2016
Resurrection Park Cemetery, So. Burlington, VT

Annual Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting called to order by Patrick Healy, President, at 9:10 am – 26 attendees
 - a. Resurrection Park's Director, Bob Brown, welcomed the membership with a little history. Resurrection Park Cemetery, located at 200 Hinesburg Road in South Burlington, is the largest Catholic cemetery in Vermont and has the distinction of being the only official "Diocesan Cemetery." Designed by Monsignor William A Tennien the cemetery was officially opened by Bishop Matthew Brady on July 4, 1942. Resurrection Park Cemetery encompasses nearly fifty acres with views of Mount Mansfield and Camels Hump.

- II. Secretary's Report – Minutes of the 2015 annual meeting had previously been handed out at the June meeting and e-mailed to other members.
 - a. Motion made by Gerry Griffin, Stowe, to accept the Minutes as presented. Seconded by Peter Smith, Stowe. Passed.

- III. Treasurer's Report by Stuart Alexander (see attached)
 - a. Balance at 10/1/15 = \$6,749.64 add total revenue of \$2,622.50 from memberships/meals plus pending deposits of \$865.00 less total expenses of \$3,631.07 = \$6,606.07 ending balance at 9/30/16.
 - b. Motion made by Bert Lindholm, Jericho, to accept report as presented. Seconded by Kenzan Lee Seidenberg, Shao Shan Temple. Passed.

- IV. Election of Officers
 - a. President, Patrick Healy – Bert Lindholm, Vice President – Stuart Alexander, Treasurer – Jane Paine, Secretary – no other nominations,
 - b. Motion by Bob Vincent, Essex Junction, to accept the current slate of officers as proposed. Seconded by Bob Brown, Resurrection Park. Passed.
 - c. By-Law Amendments:
 - i. Article IV. Meetings – Section 1, last sentence shall be amended to read "Fourteen (14) days notice by mail or by e-mail shall be given to each active member stating the time and place of such meeting."
 - ii. Article IV Meetings – Section 2 shall be amended to read "A semi-annual meeting of the Association shall be held in the month of June, requiring the same notice as Section 1."
 - iii. Motion made by Bert Lindholm, Essex Junction, to accept the proposed amendments. Seconded by Gerry Griffin, Stowe. Passed.
 - d. Patrick Healy opened the floor for Question & Answer session
 - i. Concern raised about the state's proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$15.00. It will pose a problem for budgets of those cemeteries hiring teenagers during the summer. Can the VCA propose a caveat to the state to exempt cemeteries from this mandate?
 - ii. Carl Anderson, Westford, spoke briefly about his desire to build a "natural cemetery". In California, a natural cemetery can be categorized in three ways:
 1. Conservation – natural portion of larger property designated and protected for burials
 2. Natural – one to several acres allotted specifically
 3. Hybrid - Conventional cemetery with parts set aside for natural burials.
 4. Vermont passed legislation that provided language to allow natural burials, but currently there aren't any certified natural burial cemeteries in New England.

- V. Walking Tour of Resurrection Park with Bob Brown
- a. Purchased in the early 40's. Ponds irrigate the whole cemetery.
 - b. They are in the process of eliminating the hedges between sections due to cost of maintenance and security.
 - c. Burial rights in old section are sold by the square foot for private mausoleums.
 - d. Recommendation for cemeteries designing new land to begin with the outside boundaries and work inward to keep out residential encroachment.
 - e. When designing lots, leave sufficient room for machines to pass.
 - f. Individual plantings are not allowed here. Artificial flowers are not allowed in the summer (only winter months) due to the potential of projectiles while mowing. In addition, they cannot be recycled.
 - g. Flags are only allowed 3 days per year.
 - h. Be aware that trees are high maintenance for future cutting/pruning/removal.
 - i. There are designated areas that are allowed for purchase by full families.
 - j. Cemeteries are businesses and need to keep in mind that they need to find ways to generate revenue.
 - i. Extra charges for more than one burial right per lot.
 - ii. Charges for opening/closing.
 - iii. Different charges in winter vs summer.
 - iv. Designing monuments as a full-service option.
 - k. Columbarium:
 - i. Built in 2005 with 307 niches ranging in price from \$1300 - \$2600.
 - ii. They use one engraver for consistency on fonts.
 - iii. Recommendation to NOT get a full panel front as it has to be removed in whole every time there is a burial. Very difficult.
 - l. Burial Rights:
 - i. Must have permission to open a grave. Bob provided copy of form they use.
 - ii. In the eyes of the State of Vermont, cremation is a method of disposition. Resurrection Park requires a cremation certificate, making copies and filing with the town with lot #'s.
 - iii. Burial Transit Permits should be provided for cremations.
 - iv. Rules for Disinterment = every adult sibling has to sign off and has to be certified signatures – it can be a lot of signatures and take some time to process

Thank you to Bob for the tour and education around design.

- VI. Other concerns/comments around Perpetual Care
- a. Caution on setting up trust funds for perpetual care without getting enough money... must decide what initial deposit should be to earn enough interest indefinitely... difficult in this economy.
 - b. Homeowners' insurance may cover your own memorial stone – possibility of deeding over to family members. Although insurance companies may require proof of proper installation of monument and foundation.
 - c. Dept of Veterans Affairs (near DMV in Montpelier) can answer many family questions.
 - d. There are such complex issues facing the care of our cemeteries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Paine

Secretary

Treasurer's Report Fall Meeting 2016				
Starting balance 1 October 2015				\$6,749.64
Expenses:				
11/11/2015	1367	Capitol Copy Invoice 1220 - mailings for Fall Meeting	\$310.86	
11/11/2015	1368	Capitol Copy Invoice 1407 - binding, materials for Fall Meeting	\$340.00	
11/11/2015	1369	Simply Subs and Pizza - soup/sandwiches for #50 @\$9.50 + tax and delivery to	\$489.30	
11/15/2015	1370	Wynot Limited Rentals - tables and chairs for Fall Meeting at Greenmount	\$142.04	
11/15/2015	1371	Morse Farm, Inc. - door prizes for Fall Meeting	\$115.47	
11/15/2015	1372	Patrick Healy - reimbursement for coffee and donuts / pastries Fall Meeting	\$80.16	
11/15/2015	1373	Stuart Alexander - reimbursement for Treasurer's Report copies at Staples	\$5.78	
11/12/2015	1374	Hartigan - porta-potty rental for Fall Meeting	\$357.00	
11/19/2015	1375	USPS - postage, copies of Fall Meeting registrations/ membership applications	\$2.08	
12/4/2015	1376	Greg Trulson - 2nd. 1/2 2015 database administrator's fee	\$125.00	
5/18/2016	1377	Capitol Copy Sales Order 1769 (mailing for Spring Meeting)	\$314.82	
5/18/2016	1378	Greg Trulson - 1st. 1/2 2016 database administrator's fee	\$125.00	
6/13/2016	1379	Stuart Alexander - reimbursement for meeting supplies from Staples	\$34.01	
6/15/2016	1380	Honorarium - Howard Coffin for presentation at Spring Meeting, Peacham	\$250.00	
6/15/2016	1381	Town of Peacham , reimbursement of dues (had paid twice)	\$25.00	
6/15/2016	1382	Peacham PTF - #44 lunches @ \$13.50	\$594.00	
6/22/2016	1383	Morse Farm receipt 705106 - door prizes for Spring Meeting	\$93.14	
7/21/2016	1384	USPS - postage, copies of Spring Mtg. registrations / membership applications	\$2.41	
8/7/2016	1385	Peacham Historical Association - in appreciation, cemetery ghostly presentatic	\$100.00	
9/26/2016	1386	Greg Trulson - 2nd. 1/2 2016 database administrator's fee	\$125.00	
			Total Expenses	\$3,631.07
				-\$3,631.07
Income:				
Date Deposit	#			
11/2/2015	6	x memberships, y meals	\$985.00	
12/4/2015	7	Ludlow, membership	\$25.00	
6/16/2016	1	x memberships, y meals	\$1,187.50	
6/22/2016	2	x memberships, y meals	\$407.50	
7/21/2016	3	Stowe, 1 meal	\$17.50	
			\$2,622.50	\$2,622.50
Fiscal YTD balance 30 September 2016				\$5,741.07
			To be deposited as of 10/11/2016 - x memberships, y meals -	\$865.00
				\$6,606.07