

**Minutes of the August 12, 2021 Meeting
of the
Trustees of the Waterford Union of Churches Cemetery**

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Rose. In attendance were Trustees Paul Rose, Linda Landreth, Ann Belland, Ed Lehmann, Mary Hutton, and Bronwen Souders.

Minutes of the June 22, 2021 meeting were approved with changes.

The changes shown below in italics:

Bylaws

A discussion of our bylaws took place. It was realized that many of the sections of the bylaws, such as committees, did not apply to our organization. The bylaws were copied from a template and many sections are not applicable. *A suggestion was made to review the standing committees in the bylaws and discuss appropriate changes.*

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

The Trustees voted to make Linda Landreth President, Mary Hutton Treasurer, and Ed Lehmann Secretary. Paul was congratulated on his forty years of service.

Report on the Standing Committees Called for In Bylaws

A report prepared by Paul Rose and Ann Belland was handed out. It discussed the current committees listed in the bylaws. It recommends that the Bylaws not be changed, and the Standing Committees be left as is, that each committee have a trustee designated as chairperson thereby activating the committee, and in all future meetings including the meeting on August 12, 2021 that the name of the committees in the Bylaws be used when calling for reports.

Linda asked that each trustee be provided with a copy of the current Bylaws and a copy of the report prepared by Paul and Ann and suggested the trustees review the committees listed in the bylaws and recommend changes if necessary. She said that however the committee structure ends up, all reports and activities need to be recorded for posterity. The Trustees also need to look at identifying others in the community who might wish to volunteer for cemetery tasks.

Linda Landreth suggested the Trustees come up with a timeline for specific goals. This way we can access progress on improvements and maintenance of the cemetery.

Mission and Community Involvement

Ann Belland brought up the topic of what is the cemetery's mission. Do we want to encourage community involvement in the cemetery? Examples would be picnics, Halloween events, scavenger hunts for children. There is interest as shown through the twenty donations made through the WCA in the past year.

Donation Thank You Notes

Paul Rose sent out a thank you notes with a certificate to all donors giving through the year.

Children's Scavenger Hunt

Ann Belland showed a draft list of questions for a cemetery scavenger hunt that could be used during the Fair or with Waterford School classes.

Waterford Fair Activities

A question arose whether, on the Sunday of the Fair, there would reenactors providing a twenty-one-gun salute and memorials of selected soldiers. Ann will be checking with the Foundation about this activity and children's scavenger stamps.

Paul Rose discussed how he didn't use the confederate battle flag (the cross of Saint George) to mark confederate soldier grave sites during the Fair; rather he uses the Bonnie Blue flag which was the true confederate flag.

Ed will look into putting a second sign for the cemetery in the Old School craft area pointing toward the School's south east corner.

Wreaths for three soldier memorials marked during the Fair had been made by Susan Rogers and her garden club members. Ann will ask Susan if she will be doing that for this year's Fair. Paul Rose has the easels that are used to hold the wreaths. In the past, the reenactors have chosen which graves get a wreath.

If there aren't going to be reenactors at the Fair, a future discussion will be necessary to see how to honor the soldiers in the cemetery.

How to Let the Community Know About the Memorial Plaque and Cremains Service

It was decided that a simple and small printed card/brochure might be developed as a handout for our service. Ed Lehmann will create some sample that can be used as a starting point.

Biographical Material for Selected Gravestones

Bronwen Souders proposed creating biographical information for some of the cemetery's deceased. This could be for tours at the cemetery.

Tree Survey

Mary Hutton will be finishing her survey of the cemetery's trees and their health. There are about ten dead trees in the Black Cemetery. These trees are small but tall and may be able to be removed by volunteers.

Gravestone Tripod Lifter

Although the cemetery was given a homemade stone lifting device, it still needs an additional safety chain. Ed Lehmann mentioned how he saw on the web that these devices can be dangerous to use. He volunteered to see if he could locate an experienced volunteer who would help us reset our larger fallen headstones.

Ed Lehmann

Secretary

Waterford Union of Churches Cemetery