

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

April 21, 2021

6:00 PM

Patty called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Patty Leventry, Nina Schroeder, Cookie Vanek

Other Village Personnel Present: Mayor Linda Clark, Marty Hura, Scott Weaver

Citizens Present: Tom Aldridge, Tim Benner

- ❖ Motion to approve minutes from March 8, 2021 made by Patty, seconded by Cookie; all “ayes” given.

New Business: Tim Benner presents to the Committee an idea to honor the soldiers of Mantua who have been killed in action with a memorial monument. Tim and other supporters of this endeavor have been working together since 2014 to research and cultivate this project, and they feel that they have collected enough data to substantiate a complete list of five names, Village residents, who sacrificed their lives during wartime military service. To note, he has served as Treasurer and played an active role in spearheading similar lists/memorials for the cemeteries (Pioneer, East Lawn, and West Lawn) on Mantua Center Rd.

Tim remarks that it is very important that these names are not lost to time. The Committee emphatically agrees.

Three of these five soldiers (Ellis Marsh, Jack Van Benscoten, and Claude Crafts) perished during World War II, and two more soldiers (Kenneth Keefer and Robert Zoller II) lost their lives during the Vietnam War. Per Tim’s proposed design, these names will be engraved and memorialized on the front of the monument (also referred to as the “tablet”), under the following heading: “IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY.” Additionally, “LEST WE FORGET” will be engraved beneath the soldiers’ names, and “ALL GAVE SOME. SOME GAVE ALL” will be inscribed on the backside of the monument.

Tim has contacted “Portage Monument” (i.e., Portage Marble & Granite, located in Kent) and procured renderings and a quote for the memorial. The monument’s tablet will stand approximately 30” tall, 36” wide, and 6” deep. It will weigh approximately 750 lbs. The decorative granite footer will measure at 6” tall, 42” wide, and 12” deep. It will weigh approximately 350 lbs.

Portage Marble & Granite gave a three-month lead time from the time an order is placed to its installation. The quote provided totals approximately \$4,800. To place the order, 50% of the total must be paid up-front. The remaining amount is due at the time of installation.

Because the Cemetery Committee does not have the funds to support this project, the Committee considers the following funding channels: rollover money from last year's projects coming in under budget; asking the Trust; crowd funding; an American Legion raffle. The Committee agrees that this project should be presented to the public and is seeking donations from the community. Information will be given on the Village's website. The Committee also questions whether the Village is able to provide financial aid for the project, or allocate aforementioned rollover money, but recognizes that no Village dollars may be committed without approval from the Council.

- ❖ Motion to request financial assistance from the Village Council made by Nina, seconded by Patty; all "ayes" given.

With regard to where the monument will be located, Tim kindly seeks to accommodate other projects, like the two memorial benches Tom is planning to install, but Tim prefers to place the memorial near to or in place of the "U.S." letters, which are deteriorating. The Committee has already discussed removing these letters because of their deterioration, so we agree that this is a suitable location. The monument would then neighbor Tom's memorial benches. Tom further suggests removing the shrubs near said letters and replacing the current flagpole with a taller one. He also notes that the mound's grade may need to be lessened. Additionally, a trackhoe or backhoe will be needed to remove a large slab of concrete from this circle, and Tom will discuss the pouring of new concrete with Mark Brugmann.

- ❖ Motion to adjourn made by Patty at 6:45 p.m., seconded by Cookie; all "ayes" given.