

**Church of St. Paul – Comfrey  
Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 – 4:00 p.m. – Church Social Hall**

**Members Present:** Fr. Mark Steffl, Doug Callanan, Richard Callanan, Kurt Eischen, Robert Zwaschka, Jean Kopischke, Denice Evers, Judy Augustin, Nellie Richter – Secretary

**Member absent:** Stan Schotzko

Fr. Steffl led the group in prayer. Doug called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

There were no additions to the Agenda. Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2022: Discussion on wording on several paragraphs, but decided that this will be discussed at the next Cemetery meeting under New Business – Guidelines regarding cremation burials. M/S/C Zwaschka, Kopischke to approve minutes as presented.

Financials for both Operating Fund and Perpetual Care from May 1 – December 31, 2022 were looked over. Evers commented that she notices, when helping count weekly Church Collections, the Cemetery envelopes around Memorial Day and All Saints Day are really a boost for the cemetery. M/S/C Eischen, Zwaschka to approve Financials as presented.

**Old Business:**

Doug stated that Carr's Tree Service removed the trees by the Risen Christ statue and Brian removed the brush by the cemetery sign. Comments on how nice the Risen Christ statue looks that Brian cleaned and painted last summer. Richard received a quote from Redwood Falls Nursery on tree replacement ideas, but felt they were way too expensive. Doug also passed around pictures of large planters that he had seen at several places with thoughts that something similar could possibly work by the statue area.

Doug made a mock-up of the Directory Project he is working on and is hoping to find a metal stand that will hold the directory, and along with the placement of a new flag pole, would like to have both projects completed yet this year.

Richard talked about the 2022 Proposed Taxes in the amount of \$184 that will be paid in 2023 for the acres that are non-developed cemetery property. Pete Samuelson will do whatever is necessary to keep the weeds down in that portion of cemetery property.

Doug talked about the new flag pole being looked into. \$150 in donations have been received for this project so far. Would like to move the flag pole to the east and north of where it is now, closer to the cemetery sign. Some concerns of it blocking the Risen Christ statue, but both Doug and Richard felt that it shouldn't interfere. Doug passed around information on a Liberty (brand) flag pole that is 20 feet high, telescoping and has a solar light on the top – price is \$549.00, but since it is for a church, company may give a better price. Has a 10-year warranty and easier to maintain due to collapsing height. Pole can be taken down during the extreme winter months if necessary. Richard said that the flag is usually taken down after Veteran's Day and put back up by Memorial Day, and the flags from American Legion (Schiller) seem to hold up the best. Eischen asked if cement for both the Directory Stand and the flag pole could be poured at the same, if at all possible? A few other flag pole companies will also be looked at before deciding.

**New Business:**

There was discussion about incidences of sub-par work done at the cemetery last spring by outside vendors. Some damage was done to a monument and debris was left on the grave at another site. After further discussion, it was decided that contractors working within our cemetery need to be insured. Fr. Steffl has talked to Justin Asmus of Sturm Funeral Home and he was assured that their subcontractors have appropriate insurance. It was then decided that we will contact memorial dealers and funeral homes in the area to inform them of the requirement of providing St. Paul's with proof of liability insurance so that it will be on record.

As a Cemetery Board, we will also need to approve the design of any memorial before it can be placed within St. Paul Cemetery to assure that it is deemed appropriate for a Catholic cemetery. This follows the guidelines of our Diocese.

Trail Camera in cemetery – No discussion.

Although Brian's mow/trim per time pay increase was voted on via Board emails/phone calls last August/September, a vote needs to be recorded in the minutes. M/S/C Eischen, Kopischke to approve Brian's mow/trim per time pay increase from \$250 to \$300 starting September 1, 2022. Brian does a superb job!

Doug mentioned that the tile line that runs under cemetery property should be shown on the main cemetery map, but there is no need for it to be listed on the Directory map. Doug also talked about the excessive drifts of snow along the evergreens on the west edge of the cemetery and if trimming them up a bit would help. Eischen feels that that could make drifts even worse, but placing a snow fence to the west of the evergreens may be a better solution. Evers mentioned that having a burial in a winter like we are having would be hard to do as unsure where stones are under the snow, and that families would need to wait until spring.

Fr. Steffl led the group in closing prayer. M/S/C Eischen, Kopischke to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nellie Richter - Secretary