



Mission Statement: The purpose of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery is to optimize the cemetery's potential as a cultural resource through education, preservation, and promotion of Mount Hope Cemetery's unique heritage.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – June 7, 2023, via Zoom

In Attendance	Excused	Unexcused	Guests/Members
Dennis Carr	Sally Millick		Jarod Terrell
Pat Corcoran	Henry McCartney		Carina Gassman
Deb Coffey	Cam Tran		
Kristine Klein			
Tom Jones			
Barbara Figura			
Tony Filer			
Robbie Dreeson			
Chris Grooms			
Rose O’Keefe			
Monica Gurell			
Marjorie Searl			
Chris Petote			
Yarelis Tinoco			
Nancy Uffindell			

Call to Order: Kristine Klein 7:00 pm

Secretary’s Report: Chris Petote

- A few corrections were made to the May minutes. Dennis Carr moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Nancy Uffindell. Approved by all.

Cemetery Report: Jarod Terrell

- Jarod informed board members that the city began the *South Avenue Improvements* project. “This project consists of road narrowing of South Ave. between Forest Ave. and Second Ave. The project includes road removal of Fifth Ave. from Elm Ave. to South Ave., South Ave. between Fifth Ave. and Second Ave., and South Ave. between Forest Ave. and Adlington Ave. The contractor will also conduct curb installation, utility adjustments, and lawn restoration.” At this point, milling has begun. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2023.
- In addition, work is also being done on the new columbaria and the nearby roadways. The columbarium project should be completed by fall.

President Report: Kristine Klein

General Information:

1. The Holocaust dedication was very well attended. Marjorie will tell us more in her report. Marcia Birken did a great job of publicizing the event. Several news stations and outlets picked up the story. Thank you to everyone who was there to help out.
2. A quick addition to the agenda – Chris Grooms will report on the meeting with the Landmark Society about the Old Chapel.
3. Because the wildfires in Canada are causing unhealthy air quality, it was decided to cancel the Thursday evening tour.
4. Yarelis has been very active in straightening the library/archive. Note that she has set up a box where you can put items to be added to the archive files or the library.
5. The PR committee (formerly the communications committee) has been reconstituted. The committee, which Sally Millick and Chris Grooms will lead, is working hard.
6. Dennis Carr and Kristine Klein have been trained to drive the city's tram.

Housekeeping:

1. Bring your hours for May and June to the July meeting. The form is available on the shared drive.
2. Please send Kristine committee reports by the close of business the Tuesday before the monthly board meeting.
3. If you will be absent from the board meeting, please email or text Chris Petote and Kristine.
4. Please update your information on the board roster on the shared drive. I will send out the link to the roster again.

Kristine discovered that FOMH is a steward in the Preserve America Stewards program.

"[The] Preserve America Stewards is a designation program that recognizes programs which have demonstrated a successful use of volunteer time and commitment in order to help care for our historic heritage." (<https://www.achp.gov/>)

Kristine will look into the program to learn more about being a Preserve America steward.

Jewish Committee/Holocaust Committee Report: Marjorie Searl

- Marjorie reported that the Holocaust Memorial dedication ceremony was a huge success and that she continues to hear people talk about it.
- Guest Speaker Michael Dobkowski, Professor of Religious Studies and Chair of Holocaust Studies Hobart & William Smith Colleges, was very pleased with the dedication ceremony.
- Marjorie reported that the committee is encouraged to apply for larger grants, such as the Ignite! Jewish Rochester Community Grant Program, to continue with their work. One project idea is to create a more extensive website to include all Jewish burials in Monroe County cemeteries.
- The Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors committee asked about possibly having an FOMH member join their committee. Marjorie agreed to be our representative on the

committee, and Marcia Birken will act as a backup. This is an excellent relationship for FOMH.

- The Holocaust committee continues to work on the narratives for Holocaust survivors buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Old Chapel Report: Chris Grooms

- Chris and the Old Chapel committee met with Western NY Landmark Society members. They shared information, offered suggestions, and offered to help with publicity.
- Chris reiterated that this would be a prolonged process. He added that any decisions would be made by the board and not just the committee.

Restoration Committee Report: Patricia Corcoran

1. The Spanish American War (SAW) section has been completed.
 - The trophy cannon needs to be painted.
 - Landscaping along the UR fence (behind the SAW section) is also finished.
 - The garden area will be completed this month.
2. The World War I section across the street has eight stones that must be repaired.
 - They are scheduled to be repaired this month.
3. The Main emphasis during June is completing Section L, our largest project this summer. The stone repair should be finished within a week. The stairs are a separate project within this area but are also expected to be done this summer.
4. The crew will also work in the Susan B. Anthony area this week to make some repairs.
 - The posts and chain will be in by the end of June.
5. Bill's crew consists of 7 employees. Stop by and see the work being done and meet the new workers.
6. Pat also reported that the FOMH received a \$2,500 grant from Ames Amzelak to be used in 3 Jewish sections. As this is a matching grant, FOMH will provide \$7,000 from the restoration budget for this project.

Coloring Book for Adults and Fringe Festival update: Pat Corcoran

- Pat has begun working on a coloring book geared for adults. This version would include 40 pages of different monuments with writings about them. This is a 3-month project; FOMH would own the rights to this book, and FOMH would only need to pay for the printing.
- Fringe Festival Opportunity – 2024
Pat noted, "On May 11th Tony Filer and I were at the gatehouse awaiting the volunteers for the Second Saturday. There we met Anne Wilcox walking her dog and she was eager to talk to us about the possibility of having a second production of "When the Souls Rise" during Fringe Festival in 2024.

She is currently working on funding and searching for grants. She would need some financial support from the FOMH if we chose to get involved in 2024. (We did not pay anything in 2022.) The amount that she would need is \$3000 to \$5000.

The City has declared that we have permission to be involved in Fringe Festival events." The final report from the 2022 Fringe Festival is attached.

Tour Committee: Dennis Carr and Deb Coffey

- Dennis and Deb reported that several new trainees have participated in giving tours. A few of the new trainees are ready to go solo.
- They noted that this is the most successful group in a long while. New guides are sticking with the training program.

Tour Cancellation Policy: Barbara Figura

- After May's meeting and discussion of the creation of a tour cancellation policy, Barbara submitted the following:

Process for Canceling a Tour

The President and assigned Tour Guide will decide to cancel a tour. In the case of inclement or severe weather, the decision to cancel will be made at least 2 hours before the tour starts.

The President will alert the individual in charge of ticket sale administration, the Coordinator of Tour Reception, and the FOMH website and Facebook administrators. A sign stating that the tour is canceled will be placed in front of the gatehouse/north entrance or the Mount Hope/south entrance.

The ticket sale administrator will email those who have purchased a ticket online. When inclement or severe weather is forecast for a tour date, the administrator will send an email alerting those who have purchased tickets to check their email 2 hours before the scheduled tour time. Ticket holders may have their ticket fee refunded or receive a pass to use for a future tour.

The Coordinator of Tour Reception will inform the reception volunteers scheduled for the tour, and the FOMH website and Facebook administrators will post an announcement indicating that the tour is canceled.

- Pat Corcoran motioned to accept this new policy and was seconded by Chris Groom. The board voted in favor of the new policy.

Update to Bylaws: Dennis Carr

- Following May's Board meeting discussion of the importance of attendance and active involvement of all board members, it was decided to review the current board meeting attendance bylaw. In his report to the board, Dennis noted, "The Board of Trustees of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery is a 'working' board; the organization's success depends upon the full participation of each trustee. The following proposed change to the bylaws reflects this realization."
- Dennis presented the following, which compares the current bylaws to the proposed bylaws:

ARTICLE III BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Current:

Section 3. Resignations and Removal of Trustees

- At any time, a trustee of the Society may resign by giving written notice to the President or the Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein or, if no time be specified, then on delivery.

- Any trustee who is unable to attend a meeting shall notify the President or the Secretary.
- If any trustee shall fail to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board of Trustees without notification, or one third (1/3) of the meetings of the Board of Trustees within the period of one year without notification, he or she may, by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees, be deemed to have resigned, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided hereinafter.
- Any trustee may be removed or suspended from office for cause by vote of the members or by vote of a majority of the entire Board of Trustees, on examination and due proof of the truth of a written complaint; provided that at least one week's previous notice of the proposed action shall have been given to the trustee named in the complaint, and to each trustee.

Proposed:

Section 3. Resignations and Removal of Trustees

- At any time, a trustee of the Society may resign by giving written notice to the President or the Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein or, if no time be specified, then on delivery.
- Any trustee who is unable to attend a meeting shall notify the President or the Secretary. Attendance is defined as in-person or via live electronic access.
- Trustees who are unexcused shall be stated as such in the meeting minutes.
- Trustees who are excused shall be stated as such in the meeting minutes.
- If any trustee fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board of Trustees without notification, the trustee will be immediately considered to have resigned, and the vacancy may be filled as provided hereinafter.
- If any trustee shall fail to attend five (5) meetings of the Board of Trustees, including both excused and unexcused absences, within any one (1) year period, the trustee will be immediately considered to have resigned, and the vacancy may be filled as provided hereinafter.
- Any trustee may be removed or suspended from office for cause by vote of the members or by vote of a majority of the entire Board of Trustees, on examination and due proof of the truth of a written complaint; provided that at least one week's previous notice of the proposed action shall have been given to the trustee named in the complaint, and to each trustee.

After discussing the proposed changes, Dennis Carr motioned to accept these changes, which Nancy Uffindell seconded. The board approved the motion.

Other Business:

- Robbie Dreeson updated the board on the status of the cradle grave gardening program. She emailed all gardeners and had an 80% response rate from the 100+ gardeners. Many gardeners have begun to plant their cradle graves. She hopes all gardens will be planted by mid-June. She indicated that after June 20th, she would reassign gardens for which she has not received a response.
- Tom Jones shared that the City crews have started to plant some of the free trees they received in May, noting that three are in so far. Tom also reported that June's Second Saturday group would work in Section L cutting out invasive Russian Olive. Tom also asked for help with group leaders for the Second Saturday on July 8 because he and Chris Petote will be unavailable that day. Tony Filer and Pat Corcoran volunteered to run the event.

Additional Reports:

Please see the attached individual committee reports

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

The next board meeting is Wed., July 5, 2023

Minutes Submitted by Chris Petote, Board Secretary