



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 – August 3, 2023**

<b>In Attendance</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Unexcused</b>	<b>Guests/Members</b>
Dennis Carr	Monica Gurell	Cam Tran	Jarod Terrell
Pat Corcoran			Lynda Baudanza
Deb Coffey			Marilyn Colby
Kristine Klein			
Tom Jones			
Barbara Figura			
Tony Filer			
Robbie Dreeson			
Chris Grooms			
Nancy Uffindell			
Sally Millick			
Marjorie Searl			
Chris Petote			
Henry McCartney			

**Call to Order: Kristine Klein 7:00 pm**

**Secretary’s Report: Chris Petote**

- Motion to accept July minutes was made by Nancy Uffindell, seconded by Sally Millick. Minutes approved.

**Cemetery Report: Jarod Terrell**

- Jarod began his report by noting that this year’s Wilson Day will occur on Friday, August 25. This is the day when incoming first-year, transfer, and exchange students are encouraged to participate in this Rochester Tradition during Welcome Week.
- Both chapels continue to be assessed for potential restoration as best as possible. The city plans to add three more retorts as well as holding coolers to the newer chapel.
- Jarod reported that copper was stolen from the 1912 chapel.

- The South Avenue project is expected to be completed by late September/ early October.
- Daffodil bulbs have been ordered, and the FOMH will get notified once they arrive.
- Jarod mentioned that they are looking for citizen volunteers to assist with weed trimming, including allowing the volunteers to use city equipment.

### **President Report: Kristine Klein**

- Yarelis has resigned from the board, citing health issues with her grandmother, and her need to help will cause her to miss meetings. She is, however, still planning to work in the archive.
- Committee reports – remember to send them before 5 pm the Tuesday before the meeting. Reports given orally at meetings will highlight items from the written report.
- In early July, Pat and I went on a tour of both Chapels with one of the city architects, Jarod, and several architects from various firms around Rochester.
- On July 16, we participated in Douglass Week activities with a ceremony at the Douglass Family gravesite. There were several speakers, including Dennis. Nettie Washington Douglass was in attendance. According to the FDFI chairman of the board, Michael Szymanski, Nettie’s talk was longer than usual because of Dennis’ efforts before the ceremony. We have reconnected with the FDFI and are agreeable with our maintaining and cleaning the Douglass Family gravesite. We will meet with the FDFI shortly to see how we can collaborate.
- August 26<sup>th</sup> – Cobblestone Museum will hold its annual self-drive tour of cobblestone homes. This year the tour includes the Lake View Cemetery Chapel. <https://orleanshub.com/cobblestone-tour-of-homes-features-7-historic-intriguing-sites-in-holley-brockport/>. The cost for tickets is \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members
- Nancy Bernardo, a professor from the UR In the Digital Media Studies department, reached out to discuss how we could collaborate. Marcia Birken is exploring the possibility of working with students from the UR to help with the Ignite grant. Nancy is also one of our receptionists.
- Tom Fugate has written an entry on Myron Holley for Wikipedia. He relied heavily on Richard Reism’s book. Both Richard and the Holleys have seen and are happy with the article.
- I still want to meet with the heads of committees – Please start documenting your roles and responsibilities before we meet. We need to document the roles and responsibilities of committee chairs and the purpose and purposes of committees.

### **Financial Report: Henry McCartney**

- Henry provided his financial reports at the meeting. He noted that as of July, the FOMH continues to do well. Membership remains about the same as in 2022; merchandise sales have risen, and regular season tour income is slightly down from 2022. However, the income from special tours has increased, contributions have grown, and expenses remain as budgeted. It has been a good market year for RACF. The FOMH also saw an increase in the core restoration budget from \$65,000 to \$75,000.

- Henry has begun to research the use of the landline for credit card transactions and the possibility of getting a Square device after another issue of a dead phone. Some pros are being able to use the device at the South End for tours and getting rid of the Gatehouse phone altogether. Henry noted that we currently pay a monthly phone bill vs. Square, which gets paid only for the months used. Henry proposed we do a trial to include the use of a Square device but keep the landline for now until it is determined which best suits our needs. Seconded by Dennis Carr, approved by all.

### **Mourning in the Morning: Kristine Klein and Pat Corcoran**

- The Central Library appears to have stricter scheduling this year regarding presentations. They will look for presentations by people of color and more variety in their offerings. The FOMH are on their fall schedule so far. Speakers will also contact other Monroe County libraries for other speaking opportunities.

### **John Pearsall Ceremony: Pat Corcoran**

- John Pearsall, former FOMH Trustee, member, volunteer, and librarian for the Friends, passed away in January. Mr. Pearsall left a \$25,000 donation to the FOMH. A tree will be dedicated to him on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> before the start of the Board meeting. Pat asked everyone to wear the purple shirts

### **Committee Reports:**

\*Full reports were emailed to Board members before the meeting

- **Jewish Committee** – Marjorie Searl reported on the Ignite Impact Grant awarded to the FOMH for \$16,285 from the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester. This grant money will go toward creating one comprehensive, community-wide database of all Rochester Holocaust survivors.
- **PR Committee** – Kristine Klein is currently posting information about upcoming tours, and Chris Petote posts about volunteer landscape days and post-tour bits on our FB account. Chris Grooms and Carina Gassman have resurrected the FOMH Instagram account, which is doing very well. Kris says we still need to find a dedicated PR person.
- **Restoration Committee** – Patricia Corcoran reports that work has moved from Section L to Section F along Indian Trail Avenue. Section F saw the restoration of 708 stones and 395 foundations. This work cost \$55,436, of which \$38,300 came from grants/gifts and \$17,136 from FOMH memberships, donations & tour receipts. After completing Section F, work will move to two Jewish sections on Greentree Avenue. Pat has created a binder of restoration work done and in progress, along with expenditures, and will leave this in the office for anyone to review. Pat shared that Mrs. Marquee requested a stone to be repaired, after which she made a \$2500 donation for further restoration projects. Chris Grooms suggested sharing this financial information with the cemetery and city leadership in a more formal report to show the value of the work the FOMH continues to get done.
- **Cradle Graves** – Robbie Dreese notes that some cradle grave gardens are doing very well while others are not. She continues to help out those areas by weed-whacking as she can. She currently has (4) available gardens for adoption. Robbie also reported on a gentleman, Peter VenDeMark from Massachusetts, who has hopes to add (2) new cradle grave gardens at the Crosman family terrace.

- **Tour Committee** – Deb Coffey and Dennis Carr shared that they soon meet to discuss tour ideas and themes for the 2024 season. They have recently certified one new guide and one more to be certified within the next week or so. The committee had a preliminary meeting for the October fundraising special event tour, From the Beyond. The next meeting is August 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential story ideas, route ideas, logistics, etc. As this is the FOMH's biggest fundraiser of the season, Deb reiterated the importance of board member involvement.

Motion made to adjourn by Dennis Carr, seconded by Sally Millick.

**Additional Reports:**

Please see the attached individual committee reports

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**The next board meeting is Wed., September 6, 2023**

**Minutes Submitted by Chris Petote, Board Secretary**