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 – November 1, 2023

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<th>In Attendance</th>
<th>Excused</th>
<th>Unexcused</th>
<th>Guests/Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Carr</td>
<td>Tony Filer</td>
<td>Cam Tran</td>
<td>Jarod Terrell</td>
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<td>Pat Corcoran</td>
<td>Monica Gurell</td>
<td>Lynda Baudanza</td>
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<td>Marjorie Searl</td>
<td>Tom Jones</td>
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<td>Deb Coffey</td>
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<td>Kristine Klein</td>
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<td>Tom Jones</td>
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<td>Barbara Figura</td>
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<td>Henry McCartney</td>
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<td>Chris Petote</td>
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<td>Chris Grooms</td>
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<td>Nancy Uffindell</td>
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<td>Sally Millick</td>
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<td>Robbie Dreeson</td>
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<td>Carina Gassman</td>
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Call to Order: Kristine Klein 7:00 pm

Secretary’s Report: Chris Petote
- Motion to accept October minutes made by Nancy Uffindell, seconded by Patricia Corcoran, accepted by all.

Cemetery Report: Jarod Terrell
- Jarod reported that he is working on getting new computer software for the cemetery.
- They are looking into getting kiosks for both MHC and Riverside cemeteries.
- The city’s MHC enhancement project continues, with concrete being poured as the next phase of the columbarium areas.
- Jarod mentioned that the Preservation Board has been looking into both Chapels.

President Report: Kristine Klein
- Kristine shared the resignation of Board member Tom Jones, effective immediately, and that further discussion could happen at the end of the meeting.
• Kristine thanked Deb Coffey and all volunteers for the successful and fun special event fundraiser in October.
• October 23, 2023, saw a special dedication ceremony held in the public section of single graves near Cedar Avenue. This well-attended ceremony was created to recognize those “forgotten” buried here in unmarked graves. They included residents of the 19th-century almshouse, asylum, and prison. A memorial was unveiled and dedicated to these individuals, thanks to Dr. Ryan Thibodeau, a psychology professor at St John Fisher University, who spearheaded this project. Guests included Mayor Malik Evans.
• Kristine shared that she received a thank you from John & Christine Holley for the wonderful dedication ceremony the FOMH set up. The Holleys also donated Robbie Dreeson to be used for cradle graves.
• Kristine and Dennis met with Brandon Brooks, Director of the John Wehle Gallery at the Genesee Country Village & Museum, to discuss collaboration for Spring 2024 on the Rural Cemetery Movement.
• Kristine reminded the board that given the recent changes made to FOMH by-laws regarding excused and unexcused absences, Cam Tran is now considered resigned from the Board of Trustees.
• In-kind donation refers to non-monetary donations or contributions made by volunteers, e.g., soil for a garden, office supplies, water for a tour, etc. Kristine asks that donors please let Henry know of these for recording purposes.
• Now that the FOMH has canceled the landline, yet knowing that people call the cemetery office instead, Kristine has decided to purchase a cell phone for FOMH use. She will give the office this number and ask that they forward calls to it. This will be an in-kind donation.

• Henry gave all a copy of his monthly review. He noted there were no significant changes in activity during October. He sees the FOMH ending this year on a positive.

Reporting Emergencies at the Cemetery: Barbara Figura
Barbara presented the updated emergency plan. After a brief discussion, Dennis Carr moved to accept it, and Sally Millick seconded, all in favor. This new policy will be posted and shared with receptionists and guides next season.

From the Beyond: Deb Coffey
• Deb reported that this was a very successful event sold out. A de-brief meeting was held a few days afterward, where discussion was made as to the formatting of the tour, and the stories were well received. Online sales went very well, and there were fewer walk-in sales than in the past. There was talk of perhaps upping the sales to include five more people per tour.
• It was noted that merchandise didn’t do as well as they hoped and that potentially switching rooms for next year might be worth a try. Guests would end the tour in the gift shop before hitting the refreshments area.
• Deb said the planning needs to begin earlier in the season because of the amount of work it takes. It was also noted that we need to communicate with the city about our events and ask that they inform FOMH of any events so as not to “double book” areas.

Volunteer Appreciation Event: Kristine Klein
• Barbara Figure reported she has received 32 RSVPs for the volunteer party. Robbie Dreeson and Chris Petote have met and will be ordering food, cake, etc, and will set up for the party on Sunday, November 5, at the Hervey Ely House.

Roc the Day: Pat Corcoran
• Roc the Day is November 28th. As in previous years, Pat asked how to promote the FOMH as the recipient of donations. Should something specific be chosen, or just a request for general FOMH funds? In addition, how can we expand the ask into the greater community? After some discussion, it was agreed that the money donated should be for use in the general fund, and we will promote via CC, FB, Instagram, etc.

Committee Reports:
*Full reports were emailed to Board members before the meeting

  PR Committee – Kristine met with Mike Saffron of The Wedge; he is willing to meet with members of the PR committee. The Epitaph is at the printers and should go out this Friday or Monday. The Epitaph will include a section promoting our merchandise, books, posters, ornaments, etc., available online and in Gatehouse. Kris asked for short, 200–250-word articles that can be reserved for when the Epitaph needs something. Kris also announced that Pat Sorce will become the new editor of the Epitaph. A position she is very qualified for and one she can manage both from her home here as well as from Florida.

  Restoration Committee – Patricia Corcoran reported that they are finishing up this year’s projects and that she will provide an end-of-the-year report in December. Pat stated that Jarod Terell has volunteered to perform “quality control” on the completed work. Pat and Kristine met with about 50 volunteer employees from various Home Depot locations who volunteered to do landscape work in military areas in honor of Veterans Day. Following their work, they donated to FOMH (6) string trimmers, a bunch of plastic rakes, loppers, buckets, garden hoses, gloves, and more.


For the Good of the Board
• Marjorie Searl shared that she met with (3) decedents of the Landsberg family, buried in MHC, who visited from the West Coast. The family was initially unaware of Jewish heritage until discovering it in Ancestry.
• There are currently five smartphone tours available
• Pat Corcoran’s adult coloring book should debut at the December meeting.
• The board discussed Tom Jones’ resignation.
Motion made to adjourn by Chris Grooms, seconded by Chris Petote. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Additional Reports:

Please see the attached individual committee reports

The next board meeting is Wed., December 6, 2023

Minutes Submitted by Chris Petote, Board Secretary