

Chestnut Hill Community Cemetery Association

(CHCCA)

Annual Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2021

Call to Order: Larry Ward, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm on June 19th at the Chestnut Hill Community Church.

Attendees: Board members Brenda Taylor, Janet Ward, Larry Ward, Dennis O'Keeffe, Royce Moran, Mark Mallette and 8 additional attendees were present.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 21, 2020, Annual meeting were read by Royce Moran, Secretary. Mark Mallette motioned to accept, and Janet Ward seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Tammy Caldwell, Treasurer was not available due to a death in the family. Janet Ward presented a copy of the report. There have been no bills to pay. See attached for full report.

Chestnut Hill Community Church (CHCC) filed for a distribution from the NC Community Foundation, based on the contribution made several years ago to the Foundation. We received one last year, which was split between the Church and the cemetery – approximately \$1400 was awarded to each. A check was received again this year; however, it has not been deposited as it was made out incorrectly. Request has been made to have it corrected or allowed to deposit and then split the funds 50/50 between the two entities.

Brenda Taylor moved to approve the Treasurer's report; Dennis seconded, and the motion was passed.

Cemetery Report: Of the estimated 759 burials plots, 102 have been claimed, with 107 reservations requested, of which 20 have been fully paid. See attached for full report.

Trustees Report: Special appreciation to Mark Mallette for the removal of the large cherry tree, which had died. He contributed his time, with the only expense being the equipment rental.

Bobby Miller will continue to maintain the cemetery grounds at a cost of \$200 per mowing, split \$60 / \$140 with the Church and cemetery, respectively.

It is believed that Bill Carter was responsible for replacing the small flags on the veterans' graves for Memorial Day. Thank you, Bill.

Old Business:

Update on the relationship of the Church and Cemetery: The United Methodist Conference finally agreed to sell, stipulating that the remainder of the original church members would be the owners. The 'church' was incorporated in order to make the purchase. It was a Quit Claim Deed, meaning the church was sold in 'as-is' condition. Bid was for the church property. However, the conference offered the joint properties - both the physical church property and the cemetery property. The sale was completed May 7th, 2021. Church services resume in the Church on May 16, 2021.

A map of the church and cemetery property were displayed during the meeting. Three separate bequeaths of property were made to the church for the cemetery over the years. They are noted on the map. However, two surveys were done as to where the property lines are currently. The Gambill family arranged for one, and the lawyer for the church arranged the other. They do not agree, hence there is no agreement to official property lines.

Several years ago, the church was granted an easement between drive and roadway. As of June 2020, the agreement to the easement indicated that if the church did not have services for one full year, the agreement would terminate on 6/23/2021. Services were held in the church proper, by the same group of members, on 6/21/2021. We believe we have satisfied the requirements to maintain the easement agreement.

Signage: Pictures of marquee signage were displayed in the rear of the room. Attendees were asked to indicate preferences for shape, lettering, wording, and make recommendation and suggestions for a permanent church and cemetery sign. It was suggested that members of the community could build the sign for far less than one custom made. David Caldwell offered the use of his workshop when the time comes.

Insurance: The Church has purchased a liability insurance policy. Since the church now owns the cemetery, the policy covers both. Any lawsuit would be against the church. Still waiting to see if the CHCCA officers would be covered by this policy.

Discussions: A question from the floor - Why not separate the church and the cemetery? It was noted that all three bequests indicate that the land donated was to both the church and the cemetery, which will conform to the requirements of the NC Community Foundation. It is beneficial to the church and the cemetery to remain as one, since our status as a 501c-3 entity allows us to receive disbursements from the NC Community Foundation. If separated, it is likely the cemetery would not benefit from the Foundation.

A question was raised - What will become of the cemetery if the church dies? Of course, the intention of the church membership is that it will survive and grow. The cemetery was established over 100 years ago. The church has maintained the cemetery, cared for the cemetery, and managed the cemetery all these years. Survival depends on the community and especially from those with loved ones buried here.

New Business:

Board of Directors Elections: As stipulated in the by-laws, officers' terms run for 3 years. Two officers' terms will terminate this year. Those officers are Dennis O'Keeffe and Larry Ward. The Board received nominations for Dennis O'Keeffe and Chris Taylor prior to the meeting.

Nominations were made from the floor for:

Kathy Roark - Moved by Larry Brown and 2nd by Joan Brown.

Susan Carter - Moved by Kathy Roark and 2nd by Meredith Roark.

Larry Ward – moved by Lee McMillan and 2nd by Tracy Downer.

Brenda Taylor moved to close nominations from the floor, Mark Mallette 2nd the motion.
Motion was passed.

Ballots were distributed, collected, and tallied. Royce Moran announced that Dennis O'Keeffe and Larry Ward were re-elected to the Board of Directors.

Participation: In the 3 years of the Chestnut Hill Community Cemetery Association existence the attendance at the annual Association's meeting has continued to dwindle.

1st year – 51 members participated.

2nd year – 17 attended.

3rd year – 14 attended.

Janet Ward and Royce Moran made 21 calls to those numbers gathered at the first meeting to remind members of the 2021 Association meeting.

A request from the floor was made to notify members when there is a 'work-day' planned. It could be to clean headstones, remove trash from cemetery, plant new flowers in the Memorial Garden, etc. A paper was passed and asked each attendee to give their name, phone, AND email for future announcements. Also, to indicate if they are willing to have their contact info shared with other like-minded individuals. Besides the Board's officers who are listed on the Association's website www.chestnuthillcca.org, the following people are willing to be notified when cemetery work or help might be needed.

Larry and Joan Brown – cjoaniebrown@gmail.com

Kathy Roark – kroak61@gmail.com

Mark Mallette moved to adjourn the meeting. Brenda Taylor seconded. The motion passed.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Royce Moran, Secretary