

Delaware First State Cemetery Association
April 10, 2019
Minutes

A meeting of the Delaware First State Cemetery Association was held at Holy Cross Early Learning Center in Dover Delaware on April 10, 2019. President Len Dornberger called the meeting to order 10:30 am. Len introduced the two other board members in attendance Lou Ottaviano, vice-president and Mark Christian, secretary/treasurer. Those members and guests in attendance then introduced themselves.

The minutes from the October 9th meeting were presented and a motion was by Bob Merrill, seconded by Austin Edison, to accept the minutes as presented. Prior to the vote, Lou Ottaviano expressed concern that a subsequent discussion by President Dornberger and Mark Christian that eliminated an ad hoc committee to investigate legislative matters, approved by a motion made at the October meeting, was placed in the minutes. After a long discussion the consensus was to eliminate the comment, *"Subsequent to the meeting, Len Dornberger and Mark Christian discussed the ad hoc committee and agreed that the purpose of this committee is not in line with the mission of DFSCA and is not to be considered tied to DFSCA in any way."* With the elimination of this comment, on a motion made by Mark Christian and seconded by Jim Frasier, the minutes, as modified, were accepted.

Mark Christian then gave a brief treasurer's update. The balance of the association checking account as of March 25, 2019 was \$4856.02. The prior balance as of October 10, 2018 was \$4127.41 On a motion made by Lou Ottaviano and seconded by Austin Edison, the treasurer's report was accepted.

Candace Casto, liaison to the Delaware Cemetery Board, gave an overview of the Delaware Cemetery Board and the Distressed Cemetery Fund. Candace reviewed the process for registration of cemeteries and the requirements for applying for a grant from the Distressed Cemetery Fund. She advised attendees that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 8, 2019. The meeting is open to the public and anyone can attend. Candace then gave information about House Bill 476 that enforces maintenance standards of the for-profit cemeteries in Delaware. Each county has a primary contact as follows: Joseph Day, New Castle County Code Enforcement; Sara Keifer, Kent County Director of Planning and Code Enforcement; Janelle Cornwell, Sussex County Director of Planning and Zoning. She also provided information related to legislation impacting cemeteries from the State of Delaware.

The next item of business was a presentation about suggested Rules and Regulations for cemeteries. Mark Christian gave an overview of the regulations needed to properly operate a cemetery. Lou Ottaviano presented practical operational advice on developing regulations and adhering to them whenever possible. Len Dornberger spoke of his success in bringing Holy Cross Cemetery back into conformance with regulations for the placement of flowers and decorations. He gave practical advice to accomplish this worthy objective.

After the presentation concluded Len Dornberger once again asked those in attendance to submit ideas for future discussions and presentations. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 by consensus and lunch was served.

Respectively Submitted,

Mark A. Christian
Secretary