

The Minutes of St. Theodore's Cemetery Committee Meeting

April 25, 2019

1. Members Present

Members present were Roger Rudbeck, Kevin Warne, Dennis Fisher and Fr. Tony Fernando. Jackie Duff was absent. The minutes of the previous meeting was approved as read.

2. Treasurer's Report

As the CD of \$2274.43 matured on October 05, 2018, an amount of \$5725.57 was added to the CD making it \$8000. A second CD was made from the saving account for \$15,000. Now a total of \$23,000 is two CDs for St. Theodore's Cemetery Perpetual Care. As on March 31st 2019, the balance in STC Saving Account is: \$540.98. St. Theodore's Cemetery Checking Account has \$2627.48 And St. Lawrence's Cemetery has \$2,927.57 in checking account.

3. Report on Fencing St. Lawrence Guthrie Cemetery

Mr. Tim Porter has placed the wooden posts on the boundary lines. Regarding rest of the work to be completed this Spring, Dennis Fisher will talk to Mr. Porter and seek an appointment to meet with the Committee members to expedite the work.

4. Pastor's Report on Burial Procedures in Catholic Cemeteries

Fr. Tony explained the standard burial procedures followed in Catholic Cemeteries. Families are required to contact the Parish office when a burial is requested in any one of our cemeteries. Parish office will inform the Cemetery Chairperson when a lot needed to be prepared or a new grave marker is to be placed. The Guild will be contacted, if hospitality is requested by the family and liturgical ministers will be arranged if funeral service is to take place. Lots are sold to people who are willing to have funerals accompanied by some form of prayers at the graveside by a Pastor / Minister. They also will be issued certificates of purchase with some cemetery policies and guidelines.

5. New Business

5.1 Updating Cemetery Records

Kevin Warne has been updating the burial records. We plan to have a second duplicate certificate of every Lot in our file for further reference. Parish office will update the electronic records and made it available on our parish website.

5.2 Fundraisers for Cemetery Expenses

As the cemetery expenses are higher than income, the members realized the need to raise funds. Parishioners are encouraged to use the Cemetery envelopes during memorial day weekend. Lot owners will be connected with a yearly Cemetery News Letter, seeking their support for the upkeep of the cemetery.

5.3 Cemetery Cleanup Day

The Committee chose to do a Cemetery Spring Cleanup on Wednesday, May 8th 2019. Volunteers will be asked to gather in the Church at 8:30 AM and have some light breakfast and proceed to the Cemetery to begin the work at 9:00 AM. A signup sheet will be placed at the gathering space of the Church.

5.4 Bids for mowing STC Cemetery

There were 3 bids received this year for mowing the Cemetery Lawn at Laporte. They were: Mr. Tim Miller – Laporte; Mr. Philip Busch – Akeley and Mr. Jeffery Martin – Laporte. On the basis of the lowest quote, the committee awarded the work to Mr. Philip Busch for the season of 2019.

5.5 Mailing Letters regarding “Holiday Decorations” in the Cemetery

Besides the publication of the new policy regarding holiday decorations in the bulletin, the committee members recommended to mail a letter to all the lot owners/designated heirs which comes into effect from May 01, 2019.

5.5 Cemetery Decoration Items Purchased a Parishioner

One of the parishioners had made an independent decision to purchase Sheppard Hooks and wreaths for \$138.16 to be used at St. Theodore’s Cemetery. Since the Cemetery Committee has implemented a new policy that encourages lot owners to decorate on their own the graves of their loved ones with temporary fixtures of decorative items during the month of May through September, the committee is not in a position either to accept the responsibility for family /veteran decorations or able to spend money on private decorations due to budgetary constraints. The Committee rather suggests that the donors of holiday decoration of all kind may directly approach the lot owners, who may accept the decorations as gifts and may use them during the holiday season and take the responsibility to remove them by September 30th.

6. Next Scheduled Meeting

Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 2:30 PM

Reported by:

Fr. Tony Fernando