

Agenda Summary
February 28, 2024

Agenda Item No. A-8
West Branch Cemetery Fence Maintenance

Summary: The Cemetery Commission requests Selectboard approval for an expenditure of \$4,400 from the Cemetery Fund for the purpose of beautification of burial grounds, in partnership with a portion of the donations from the Remembrance Program.

This request is pursuant to Section II, Rule 10 of the Stowe Cemeteries Rules and Regulations: *The Stowe Cemetery Commission may, with the approval of the Selectboard, expend the income from the Stowe Cemetery Trust Fund for the care and improvement of its burial grounds, or of private lots within such burial grounds or elsewhere.*

The current chain link fence located along Cottage Club Road and Route 108 is in disrepair, has rusted in some places, especially on the front. There have been no improvements, repairs, paint, or replacements of sections in years, and it generally needs some attention to condition and esthetics. The Cemetery Commission has attempted to obtain quotes for replacement of the fence over the past couple of years and was only able to obtain 1-2 quotes for more than \$35,000 and has since concluded that that option is not a viable one at this time.

The Stowe Cemetery Remembrance Program received approximately \$8,400 in donations from friends and family of Barbara Allaire which were designated to beautification at West Branch. Last summer, the Remembrance Program designed and erected a new Barre Granite sign replacing the existing deteriorating wooden sign in place at the time. The portion of the donations remaining is approximately \$2,140. Since Barbara was always passionate about improving the looks of the fence at West Branch, the Remembrance Program has come up with a less expensive option, i.e., sandblasting and painting the existing fence with Rustoleum.

After making numerous attempts to obtain bids to do this project, they received only 1 bid. After some discussion with other contractors, they feel it is a fair and equitable estimate for the work that needs to be done. The bid is in the amount of \$8,800.

The Stowe Cemetery Remembrance Program has proposed taking \$4,400 from the Remembrance Fund (which includes the balance of the Allaire donations) and has in turn asked the Cemetery Commission to match this amount from the Cemetery Fund (\$4,400), which would be sufficient to engage Mr. Bowen to do the work. The Remembrance Program has provided Mr. Bowen with the Town of Stowe's Vendor Information Packet.

Conditions of Agreement: Guarantee of workmanship; completion date of on or about May 15, 2024, but no later than May 24, 2024. The Remembrance Program has planned a dedication of the West Branch sign on Memorial Day, May 30, 2024.

Town Plan Impact: Conforms with the Towe Town Plan Cemeteries Goal: *To provide adequate, well maintained cemetery space to accommodate future demand.*

Fiscal Impact: Withdrawal of income generated by sale of burial rights and held in Stowe Cemetery Trust Fund by the Town Clerk and Treasurer. The current Cemetery Fund balance is \$439,033. The current Remembrance Fund balance is \$12,533.

Recommendation: Move to approve the request to spend \$4,400 from the Stowe Cemetery Trust Fund and execute a valid contract for maintenance of the fence at West Branch.

ESTIMATE

BOWENS UNLIMITED

P.O BOX 903
Morrisville, VT 05661

BILL TO

Karin Gottlieb
West Branch Cemetery

ESTIMATE #

135

ESTIMATE DATE

01/31/2024

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
paint fence around 2 sides of cemetery with rustileum paint	8,800.00
TOTAL	\$8,800.00

Thank you

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Payment is due within 15 days