

Portland Mills Cemetery Newsletter – 2021

The annual meeting of Stockholders of Portland Mills Cemetery was held on June 6, 2021. There were 11 in attendance.

Carolyn Smith Collins, President, called the meeting to order.

Janet Spencer Barr, Secretary, read the minutes from the last meeting, June 2, 2019. The minutes were approved as read. Because of Covid, we did not have a meeting in 2020, which has been noted for the records.

In Todd and Sandy Hopkins' absent, Janet Spencer Barr read the following Treasurer's report.

Expenses:	\$ 3,767.16
Income:	\$ 4,486.57
Bank Account Balance:	\$ 4,277.14
Endowment Fund CD's:	\$66,000.00

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Harold Thomas gave a report on the grounds. The mower and equipment are in good shape for now. There was a discussion on the fungus on the old tomb stones in Old Seceder Cemetery. Mike Spencer said he had used WET and FORGET for his private use and found it to be successful. Harold is going to buy some and use it on some stones and see how it works. If it is successful, then those who wish to clean their family stones, would be able to do so. It is sprayed on the stone and the rain will wash off the mold and fungus.

The 10 pear trees planted along the back of the cemetery in 2002 are now having storm damage to them. One tree split and the fallen section fell on a stone. Dan cut it up and removed it. We thank Dan for taking care of that. But it is an issue that we need to address. It was suggested that we remove the 2 now as they are the ones near stones. Then consider removing a couple every few years until the 10 are removed. Caroline is going to get an estimate on removing the two trees. In the meantime, Harold will trim the lower limbs on the pear trees, so they are easier to mow under.

Harold and Stephanie would like to remove the curb stones around the flagpole as they are hard to mow around. They would replace them with 4x4 short posts. They would take the curb stones and make a garden in another area of the cemetery.

A motion was made and passed to give Harold a raise of \$3.00 an hour. It has been a long time since he has had a raise and we felt it was time to increase his pay. There were many compliments on the beauty of the Cemetery Grounds by those who sent donations and by those present.

Donations to the cemetery would be appreciated. Next year we will need to purchase a new lawn mower, so donations would be appreciated to help with that expense. We operate the cemetery expenses from donations, sales of lots and interest on the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is for emergency use only. Please send your donations to **Todd and Sandy Hopkins, 3214 N 1200 E, Russellville, IN 46175.** The donations are tax deductible. Our donations were up this year because some families, who lost loved ones, ask that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Portland Mills Cemetery. That was so helpful to our donation balance. It is an idea that others might follow. The Cemetery Grounds are always beautiful, and it takes work to keep it that way.

Mike Spencer thanked Dan for helping him replace the tree that was in Memory of his Father, Maynard Spencer. Dan asked Mike to tell us the story of his Dad who was held for 2 years in a German POW camp during WWII. As Sunday was the 77th Anniversary of the Normandy Landing, it reminded us of the many Veterans who gave their all for our Country, and how grateful we are for their service. Flags have been placed at all of the Veteran's Grave Sites.

Because of Covid, and the fact we did not have a meeting in 2020, Dan gave a report on the burials from the meeting in 2019 to present.

Paula Martin Buried 07/24/2019
 Phyllis Spencer Buried 10/19/2019
 David L. Rice Buried 01/27/2020
 Alice Vaught Buried 03/20/2020
 Avery Hopkins Buried 08/15/2020
 Betty J. Rice Buried 02/02/2021
 Inez W. Smith Buried 03/24/2021

You can access the cemetery website at portlandmills.com. You will find a list of all the burials in the cemetery and pictures of the stones. There is also a Veterans page with all Veterans buried at Portland Mills Cemetery and Old Seceder with information on where and when they served. When checking out the Veterans page, if you have more information than David has there, please let him know. We like to have as much information as possible on the Veterans. Thank you to David Marrero for maintaining the website. I am sure we all can appreciate the work that it takes to maintain it.

We ask if you have a change of address, please contact **Carolyn Smith Collins at 765-592-5205, or 1039 Summerset Drive, Rockville, IN 47872**. We are constantly keeping the mailing list updated. Some of the letters returned this year as undeliverable took a month to be returned to Carolyn. It also saves on mailing expenses.

An election was held for Treasure, Grounds Keeper and Secretary. A motion was made and carried to elect Todd and Sandy Hopkins for Treasures, Harold Thomas for Grounds Keeper and Janet Spencer Barr for Secretary. They were elected for terms of 2 years.

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on June 5, 2022 at the Portland Mills Christian Church.

Thank you for supporting The Portland Mills Cemetery.

Janet Spencer Barr, Secretary

Officers

Carolyn Smith Collins, President – 765-592-5205
 Dan Harbison, Vice President
 Janet Spence Barr, Secretary
 Harold Thomas, Grounds Keeper