

MEETING MINUTES
CEMETERY COMMISSION
New London City Hall
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 4:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rob Way and Laurie Shaw

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH CAUSE: Brian Strey

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Besaw, John Faucher, Fred Zaug, Lori Dean, Jason Bessette, Dave Dorsey, Rachel Schuller, Dennis Herter, Chad Hoerth, Mark Herter New London Parks & Rec Committee, Jamie Walbruck, Zach Howard and others for the Parks & Rec meeting,

1. **Call to Order** – the meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – Quorum present
3. **Discuss 10-acre parcel** - joint meeting with the Parks & Recreation committee to discuss use of / access options for the 10 acre parcel on the south side of Floral Hill Cemetery
 - a. Laurie Shaw spoke concerning public venue verses area available for use of local residents. Concerns higher traffic, solitude – people want privacy. No decision was made by cemetery commission, just having initial discussions – was worried that Parks & Rec thought we were not open to hearing possible uses. Shaw also inquired about future compost plans at the site. Cemetery commission is not opposed to high school use of area
 - b. Fred Zaug spoke stating it's a cemetery, why can't the bikes use Hatten Park
 - c. Jason Bessette from New London utilities is opposed to opening the area as a biking destination. He doesn't want additional traffic near the water tower and would need to raise the fence if traffic increases. Concern was possible damage due to raised visibility and awareness of the area. Also stated it's a cemetery for the burial of loved ones, it's an area with great emotion attached for many. Also had concerns about people crossing into the quarry.
 - d. John Faucher would like to see the high school classes have access just as they have in the past
 - e. Lori Dean voiced concerns that it's a cemetery not a public attraction
 - f. Rob Way discussed the property that Outagamie County has available off of Alcan Road and noted it would be idea. There is an online survey for the county about recreational needs and wants that is open through 3/12/2021 – Rob encouraged everyone to complete the survey and indicate if they are interested in having that area developed as an off road biking destination. Rob also stated that the area behind the cemetery is suitable for passive recreation (high school use) but that it's a huge jump and a lot more research would need to be done to see if it's feasible as a formal destination. There would need to be public listening sessions and a lot of thought about how to access the area
4. **Next Meeting Date** – 3/23/2021 at 4:45 p.m..
5. **Adjournment** – motion to adjourn by Way / seconded by Shaw