

**Rutland Jewish Center  
General Membership Meeting  
Minutes: August 25, 2024**

**Present in Person:** Kathy Felder (President), Gene Felder, MJ Hochberg, Judy Stern, Shelley Gartner, Barry Cohen, Michael Dick, Robin Lash, Norm Lash, Larry Gold, Irene Gold, Carolyn Devlin, Maxine Garfinkle, Nancy Garfinkle, Alan Garfinkle, Jennifer Hart

**Present on Zoom:** none

The meeting convened at 10:07 am

**Minutes:** Norm moved that the minutes from the June 2024 General Membership Meeting be approved. Nancy seconded. All approved.

The President, Kathy Felder, explained the process by which the Cemetery Bylaws were updated. In the course of that process the Board of Trustees passed the proposed changes by unanimous vote at the June 5, 2024 meeting.

Barry explained the rationale for the changes to the Bylaws as being part of a package of changes being made within the Cemetery Committee. Major areas for change have been:

1. The expansion of the cemetery.
  - The site was surveyed, cleared, items such as junked cars that had been left on the premises were removed, and the site was landscaped.
2. Cemetery protocols and procedures required updating and revision.
  - Fees were updated for financial stability.
  - Rules and regulations were developed to correspond with current practice. These were approved by the Board of Trustees at the June 5, 2024 Board meeting.
  - The Bylaws were updated to
    - a) make them less formal and easier to understand including language on how and to whom bills are paid as well as wording on where non-Jews are buried.
    - b) align them with current practice including changing "Director" to "Trustee" and revising the composition of the Cemetery Committee (revised to state "up to 5 members" rather than "5 members").

**Motion to accept:** Gene Felder made a motion accept the revised Bylaws as currently written. Nancy Garfinkel seconded.

Discussion ensued.

- There was a question from Robin Lash about Section 8, specifically, about who is included as Jewish under the definition of "maternal descent". MJ Hochberg clarified that converted people are adopted into the Jewish faith through Abraham and Sarah. Sarah covers maternal descent, thus enabling converted individuals to be buried traditionally.

- There was a question from Michael Dick about Section 4. He asked why, if there are up to 5 members of the Cemetery Committee, only 2 are needed for a decision to be made. MJ clarified that this made for the most efficient operation of the Committee.
- Michael questioned the statement in Section 10 that only the Rabbi can make certain decisions. The question addressed what we would do in the future if there were no Rabbi. Barry clarified that there would be multiple sections of the Bylaws that would have to be changed if confronted with the situation of having no Rabbi.

A **vote** was called on the motion above. There was unanimous approval. At 10:38 am the new Cemetery Bylaws were accepted as submitted.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted: Judy E. Stern, Secretary

DRAFT