



CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Directors September 22, 2021

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cheney Cemetery Association was held Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at The Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford, CT. Directors present were: Carol L. Cheney, K. Dexter Cheney IV, Tom Myers, Austin C. Smith, Kate Cheney Chappell, Nathaniel Cheney and Kristin Merrill.

Austin made a motion to approve last year's minutes. Dexter Cheney seconded the motion and all were in favor. The Board unanimously approved committee assignments unchanged from the prior year except Nat Cheney is now the investment chair. A list of current committee assignments is attached to these minutes.

The Board reviewed the proposed Grounds budget for 2022 as prepared by Rick Cheney. The line items total \$71,700, which is increased from the 2021 actual due to upcoming tree replacements. The 2020 actual was \$44,202 and the budget was \$64,900. A lot of work was postponed due to COVID. Kristin made a motion to approve the grounds budget. Kate seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The Board reviewed the donations proposal and approved it. Carol had met with her committee, and they approved the proposal. The institutions that we have supported are education and culturally based and include the Cheney Homestead and activities at Cheney Hall. We asked our program advisor, Betty Ann Grady at the Hartford Foundation for suggestions, and we chose to add The Manchester Early Learning Center to our list. Carol distributed the awards to two students at the Dunkin Donuts stadium at the Howell Cheney Technical High School graduation. In keeping with process, a motion was made by Dexter to approve the donations proposal. This was seconded by Austin and the board unanimously voted in favor. The donations proposal is attached.

Carol reports that the cemetery is in very good condition. There has been some tree loss of Hemlocks from disease and wind. There are significant spots that need replanting. On August 19, Rick, Barry Dolby and Carol toured the cemetery to plan for a replanting. Carol sent a summary of findings to Alice Willard, who was not able to attend. Subsequently Carol and Alice conducted an additional review on September 14, 2021. Alice will summarize their findings in a report soon. She will be specifying tree and shrub types. We have been conservative with pruning, and the gravestones are now growing mold and moss because of this. The gravestones need more air flow and light and we have hired arborists to trim back shrubs that overhang the gravestones. Rick Cheney is testing Wet & Forget, on the RO Cheney headstones. We have been using D2 but Ruth says that the Wet & Forget may work just as well. The path at the gate needs attention; it is the entry of all equipment into the cemetery and is muddy. We will need gravel paths, professionally installed to keep the mud down there and at the internal entry to the main area.

The family tree is now accessible on [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). Kristin will send a link to the members.

The annual meeting will be held in person and on Zoom and we are hoping to attract new members. Carol will report on the membership growth in her President's report.



CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Carol Cheney made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kristin seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Merrill, Secretary  
Cheney Cemetery Association  
20 Grand Avenue, New Haven, CT  
203-562-7719  
kmerrill@cheneyandco.com

## **CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC. 2021**

### **DIRECTORS**

Carol L. Cheney, President  
Richard O. Cheney IV, Vice President  
Kristin Merrill, Treasurer/Secretary  
K. Dexter Cheney IV  
John Fiske  
Katherine C. Chappell  
Austin C. Smith  
Tom Myers  
Nathaniel Cheney

### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Grounds**

Richard O. Cheney IV, Chair  
K. Dexter Cheney IV  
Carol L. Cheney

#### **Investment**

Nathaniel B. Cheney, Chair  
Austin C. Smith  
Kristin Merrill

#### **Audit**

Austin C. Smith

#### **Donations**

K. Dexter Cheney IV  
Katherine C. Chappell  
Carol L. Cheney, Chair  
Tom Myers

#### **Nominating**

Carol L. Cheney, Chair  
John Fiske

#### **Membership and Communications**

Carol L. Cheney, Chair  
Thomas Myers  
Kristin Merrill

**CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION  
 GROUNDS COMMITTEE  
 2022 BUDGET**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>		
<b>Consulting:</b>		
Willard Flowers		\$3,000.00
<b>Care of Trees:</b>		
Mountain Tree:		
Pruning: Trees & Shrubs	\$6,000.00	
Feeding	\$9,000.00	
Pest Control	\$9,000.00	
	\$24,000.00	
Emergency Tree Removal (Storm damage)	\$3,000.00	
Tree Replacement	\$10,000.00	
Total - Mountain Tree		\$37,000.00
<b>Care of Lawn, Shrubs &amp; Beds:</b>		
Town of Manchester: Mowing; Leaf & Snow Removal	\$6,500.00	
Town of Manchester - Water Department	\$1,500.00	
Executive Lawn Services	\$15,000.00	
Franks Landscaping - Irrigation Maintenance	\$1,200.00	
Green Carpet - Lawn Fertilization	\$2,250.00	
Misc.	<u>\$250.00</u>	
		\$26,700.00
<b>Capital Improvements: Headstone Cleaning</b>		\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>		<u><u>\$71,700.00</u></u>

**CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION - GROUNDS COMMITTEE**  
**2020 BUDGET VS. ACTUAL**  
**1/01/2020 - 12/31/2020**

	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	VARIANCE
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>			
Consulting:			
Willard Flowers	\$3,000.00	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	\$0.00
Care of Trees:			
Mountain Tree:			
Pruning: Trees & Shrubs	\$6,000.00	\$6,300.00	
Fertilizing	\$14,000.00	\$3,250.00	
Pest Control	\$8,000.00	\$5,702.00	
Cabling	\$500.00	<u>\$0.00</u>	
	\$28,500.00	<u>\$15,252.00</u>	-\$13,248.00
Emergency Tree Removal (Storm damage)	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	-\$500.00
Tree Replacement	\$2,500.00	<u>\$0.00</u>	-\$2,500.00
Total - Mountain Tree	\$34,000.00	<u>\$17,752.00</u>	-\$16,248.00
Care of Lawn, Shrubs & Beds:			
Town of Manchester: Mowing; Leaf & Snow Removal	\$6,500.00	\$1,737.00	
Town of Manchester - Water Department	\$1,200.00	\$1,445.00	
Executive Lawn Services	\$12,000.00	\$14,600.00	
Franks Landscaping - Irrigation Maintenance	\$1,200.00	\$3,589.00	
Green Carpet - Lawn Fertilization	\$1,750.00	\$2,079.00	
Misc.	<u>\$250.00</u>		
	\$22,900.00	<u>\$23,450.00</u>	\$550.00
Capital Improvements:			
Tree Replacement	\$5,000.00		-\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<u>\$64,900.00</u>	<u>\$44,202.00</u>	<u>-\$20,698.00</u>

## 2021 CCA Donations Committee Grant Recommendations

**TOTAL AVAILABLE** **25,535**

**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY** **2,500**

Last year, CHS proposed to digitize and make available on the Connecticut Digital Archive, previously cataloged material in the Cheney Family Collection with a focus on photographs in the Philip Cheney and Horace Bushnell Cheney collections. We were unable to complete this work in 2020/2021, due to a multi-year storage renovation project that has kept every member of the Collections Department busy. That project should wrap up this fall and we look forward to turning our attention to digitizing and uploading content into our systems later this year.

To that end, we would like to request an additional \$2,500 grant to continue the proposed work. Even with an additional grant, there will still be more work to be done. In addition to digitizing images, CHS has a selection of clothing items from the Cheney Collection that have not yet been photographed. We currently have a Collections Assistant on staff who is skilled at mannequin dressing and we would like to use grant funds to support dressing and photographing these pieces. This grant would support approximately 110 hours of work divided by CHS's Digitization Lab Manager and Collections Assistant.—*Andrea Rapacz, Director of Collections*

**HOWELL CHENEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL—Spirit of Innovation Awards** **2,000**

We established the Spirit of Innovation Awards in 2017 in memory of Howell Cheney. The awards go to two deserving students selected by the faculty and carry a \$1,000 cash prize each "This year's recipients are Isaiah Albert and Julia Giangreco". They received citations read by Carol Cheney at the Prize Day/Graduation ceremony on June 12 at Dunkin' Donuts Field. Julia is a senior in welding. Through her trade, she has learned to be creative and efficient, and also to excel in problem solving when working alone or with others. She has also gained a greater sense of independence being able to complete projects from start to finish on her own. As class president for the past four years, she was able to provide leadership not only to the senior class with her innovative ideas, but was able to do the same within the welding trade. Julia will be continuing her studies at Manchester Community College with her major to be decided.

Isaiah is a senior in carpentry. Some of his accomplishments as a carpentry student include helping build a deck and finishing a basement including installing walls, drywall and flooring. Throughout the four years, his expertise in utilizing tools such as circular saws and precision measuring equipment has increased tremendously. Some of the projects he engaged in gave him the opportunity to use his creative vision when working alone or as a team. He was also bighearted in giving back to his friends and peers during times of need. Isaiah will be continuing his studies at Manchester Community College pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice.—*Delaney Ruiz, Assistant to the Principal*

**MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUTHERLAND SCHOLARSHIPS** 5,000

**MARY CHENEY LIBRARY** 3,500

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure equitable programming, now that the pandemic is receding, we can begin to solicit names for a steering committee to guide the effort of organizing a One Book program wherein hundreds of town residents are invited and encouraged to all read the same book title and hear from/meet with the author. It has been a few years since we last organized an event like this. Past authors have ranged from Connecticut residents such as Colin McEnroe to a California author, Oral Lee Brown, who started a Foundation to pay for college educations of the poorest of children. After scheduling Ms. Brown to visit Manchester and after beginning the publicity for the event, she was featured on Oprah's tv show—making that the most well-attended One Book program we've ever done, with over 1,500 people reading and meeting to discuss her book. Since we were cooperating with Manchester Community College and Manchester High School, Oral Lee Brown visited both of those sites during her two-day stay and spoke with large numbers of students. More typically, we have 200–300 residents participating, which is still a very large number.

In order to have a One Book program, funds are still needed for covering the cost of getting an author especially from any distance away, as well as for purchasing copies of the books. Although from experience we know that this event will be much work for library staff, the end result has always been a wonderful sense of community-building as well as promoting books and reading. We anticipate that once formed, the steering committee will be examining possible titles and authors, and we expect that a person of color will be the author chosen.

While our public library was closed only for the shortest time allowed by the Governor (late March to mid-June, 2020), it has been open the past year for borrowing of materials only, with no prolonged, in-person programming. Postings by the public on our social media pages and requests from customers in-house keep asking WhenWhenWhen will programming restart. We used much of the previous gift from your Family Fund donation to sponsor the adult 'summer reading program,' which was a combination of hybrid and In-Real-Life. Support from the Cheney Family Fund could financially support the next One Book effort; it would make a real impact in our community. With planning for a spring 2022 author event about to begin, we'll again aim to arrange cooperative linkages with local educational institutions.—*Douglas McDonough, Director*

**HARTFORD ARTISANS WEAVING CENTER** 2,500

In Manchester, we continue to build our connection with the Manchester Historical Society and Cheney Homestead. We held adult floor loom classes at the Manchester Historical Society from September 2020 – June 2021. With COVID, our capacity for several sessions was reduced but we served 26 students. Wendy Bestor is our primary instructor for these classes. This summer we are introducing an Explore Weaving 3-day workshop for youth with Wendy. We did not have enough participants for our June session, but are hopeful to have enough to run the August session.

In addition, we are participating in the July “Threads and Strings” Event at the Cheney Homestead. We will have an exhibit of student work, a talk let by Fran Curran, artisans weaving and more. Our 2021 Fall classes planned for Manchester include Intro to Floor Loom Weaving and an Intermediate/Advanced Floor Loom Class.

We are grateful for our continued work in Manchester. It allows us to share the mission of the Weaving Center—and in a location deeply connected to weaving, its history and impact on society in general.

In December 2020, three of our artisans were featured on CT Public Radio as part of Chion Wolf’s show “Revealing our Blind Spots about Blindness.

<https://www.wnpr.org/post/revealing-our-blind-spots-about-blindness>

We remain most appreciative to the Cheney Family Fund for supporting our mission to enhance lives through handweaving.—*Ann Kolliger, Executive Director*

### **WADSWORTH ATHENEUM**

**2,500**

Support from the Cheney Family Fund would allow the Wadsworth to bring a visiting textile conservator to the museum to work with Objects Conservator Casey Mallinckrodt and Conservation Assistant Kat Sarris to develop condition assessments and treatment proposals for key textile pieces in the collection. To build in-house skills, the textile conservator would also provide instruction to conservation staff on aspects of textile handling and care. Improved capacity for textile conservation would enable the Wadsworth to safely exhibit more textiles from its collection. The museum respectfully requests a \$2,500 grant to complete this project.— *Angelina Altobellis, Corporate and Foundation Relations Manager*

*(Carol attended an in-person event at the museum in connection with the Manship exhibit. A curated tour of the exhibit and then discussion of Cheney Silks from the 20s. This new program was announced to the Costume and Textile Society attendees, longtime supporters of the Museum. There has been no curator of costumes and textiles since Carol Krute left the post due to ill health in 2006.)*

### **CHENEY HOMESTEAD of MHS**

**3,000**

#### **Programs**

- Multicultural Garden - develop more defined ideas about the contributions of all cultures to domestic agriculture. Currently Native American, African origin and early American. Include south Asian and Asian, South American and middle eastern (lilacs), to show the mixing of cultures in agriculture that occurred very early.
  - bring in specific cultural speakers with an emphasis on participatory cultural activities (establish a speaker fund?).
  - beautify garden with permanent, historic fencing (not cheap, but nice by 2023)
  - further protect against animals, in a less obvious way.



- Develop “History through Art” information/exhibit signs for the Homestead - I included the stories and Seth portrait work of Theodore Parker (reformer/abolitionist/minister at Seth’s funeral), Frank W. Cheney (OH Underground Railroad/Antietam wounded/Japan opening for trade), and Dorothea Dix (mental health reformer). This is where we can dig into and present some of the side stories connected to the Homestead.
- Develop “Women of the Cheney Homestead” Room at the Homestead - highlight the lives, skills, contributions of each of the women who have lived at the Homestead: Electa (tavern daughter/mother of 9/award winning weaver), Lovisa (helper in raising children), Ednah Dow Cheney(women’s rights/Transcendentalists/abolitionist, etc.), Margaret Swan (MIT graduate/19th century women’s education), Marjory & Dorothy Cheney (WWI volunteers/art/CT legislature). Exhibit signs, artifact purchase/reproduction, MIT historian/speaker to dedicate(?), etc.
- George Cheney—help with deciphering and transcribing his Commonplace book, incidental costs plus possible sign quotes inside and out. Also, hiring of a draft horse team to plow part of an acre for planting of winter wheat to honor George’s 1820’s first place in the Hartford Agricultural and Domestic Manufactures award. October Homestead Harvest event. We have his certificate, plus two awards for Electa’s weaving.

**Potential purchases we want to be prepared for:**

- 18th c working loom for further Electa reproductions
- Clockmaking tools/small exhibit to represent Timothy Cheney’s important role in early American clock innovation/silversmithing. Timothy and Benjamin are two of the earliest recorded American wooden gear clock makers in America. Very significant.
- Seth studio archives from former Corcoran Gallery in DC. It has closed and the collection dispersed, but we will be working through our representatives to identify what remains of Seth’s archives (art work/artifacts/diaries?).
- Margaret Swan Cheney—currently we have no artifacts, but I have been notified that MIT research dept has started to gather records per my request. It would be great to have a museum quality reproduction of her portrait that currently hangs in the Margaret Swan Cheney Room at MIT. This might be a time that we can collaborate with MIT to give MSC more exposure (birthplace and school). I know they have a historian/speaker who has presented on women’s history and education.

**2020/2021 Investment:**

- \$100 Art Studio—frames for Seth Cheney drawing reproductions
  - \$150 Electa reproduction flannel—wool yarn, etc.
  - \$135 Purchase of George Cheney diary digital reproduction/rights from CT Historical Society
  - \$750 Garden tools, supplies, animal fencing
  - \$800 Being purchased—permanent in/outdoor signs for gardens, paths and self-guided tours
  - \$1,200 Being purchased—new shades for Homestead and museum grade for gallery
- Peter Millett, Chair, Homestead Committee

*(Carol—While some of these funding priorities—shades, signage—were also in last year’s request, they apparently were not fulfilled. I also question the scope of activities undertaken by the Homestead Committee and feel that research appropriately should be the responsibility of another area of MHS. Nevertheless the Committee has asked for things that directly impact the Homestead. )*

**MANCHESTER EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

**2,000**

The Manchester Early Learning Center is a nonprofit organization that provides quality pre-school childcare and afterschool care for Manchester children, offering scholarships for families with financial need. This organization is recommended by HFPG.

Founded in 1976, The Manchester Early Learning Center (MELC) is a notable part of the east of the river communities' education system. MELC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization that provides preschool and school-age programs and service. The mission of MELC is to provide a safe place with positive role models and quality programs that enable all children to reach their full potential.

MELC was founded by the Manchester Community Service Council (MCSC). The Manchester Community Service Council determined that there were few affordable childcare options for working families in the Town of Manchester. Working in cooperation with the Town of Manchester, MELC established two childcare programs to serve children ages three to twelve. As MELC continues to grow and expand its MELC school-age program, keeping the cost of care affordable for parents is a priority to support our mission. The continued success of our programs relies on the generosity of grants, corporate sponsors, foundations, individuals, and contributors. Whether you are an individual or represent a business or other institution, you can help to ensure that the MELC continues to have the resources, talent, and ability to provide unique services to the Manchester education system.—*Website*

**CAST**

—

HFPG also recommended CAST, a theater organization, now in its 32nd season. CAST started as a small children's theater group, run out of the home of its co-founder, Donna Mercier. CAST has grown from a children's theater group doing summer musicals to a full-scale theater group offering year-round productions and classes for children ages 5–18.

*(Carol—I feel that MELC has an urgent purpose that deserves support especially after the fractured year of Covid. Also, by supporting Manchester Little Theatre at Cheney Hall, we are covering the performing arts.)*

**MANCHESTER LITTLE THEATRE**

**2,500**

Because of the Cheney Family Fund's support during the tumultuous year of 2020, LTM was able to keep a connection to our patrons through outdoor concerts and constant messaging about our plans for a safe and healthy reopening.

In early 2021, we officially moved into our recovery stage, which included planning for in-person, indoor events starting as early as May 2021. It is with great pleasure and relief that we

can say our reopening has been an overwhelming success with audiences come back in numbers for greater than we anticipated, seeing over 600 people in our first 60 days back. As we look toward the balance of 2021 and our planning for 2022, we want to make sure we have the resources and capabilities to increase our impact in the Greater Manchester community. Our goal is to continue to place Cheney Hall at the center of vibrant and healthy arts eco-center for our community. This vision includes the following core principles:

1. We will continue to present plays, musicals, concerts, and other performing arts activities that reach all members of our community.
2. We want to offer a free space for other local and regional arts groups that allow them a place to rehearse, gather, and meet.
3. We want to maintain Cheney Hall as a safe and attractive facility for private and public rentals.

To live up to these principles, we need additional resources for paid advertising, in particular digital, online marketing. A new grant from the Cheney Family Fund will allow us to increase the depth and breadth of our messaging to the community, ensuring they are aware and appreciate the value of having The Little Theatre of Manchester and Cheney Hall in their own backyard. On behalf of all of us here, I sincerely thank you for all your generous support, and we look forward to continuing our relationship. —*Dwayne Harris, Director*

<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>	<b>25,535</b>
<b>CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>HOWELL CHENEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL—Spirit of Innovation Awards</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUTHERLAND SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>MARY CHENEY LIBRARY</b>	<b>3,500</b>
<b>HARTFORD ARTISANS WEAVING CENTER</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>WADSWORTH ATHENEUM</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>CHENEY HOMESTEAD of MHS</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>MANCHESTER EARLY LEARNING CENTER</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>CAST</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>MANCHESTER LITTLE THEATRE</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>UNASSIGNED</b>	<b>35</b>