



CEMETERY TRUSTEES
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Bob Ellwood, Michele Kaulback, Donna Waldron

Also Present: Paul Hayden – Sexton

M. Kaulback opened the Cemetery Trustees meeting at 6:08 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; she announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: M. Kaulback moved to approve the minutes of January 25, 2022. Second – B. Ellwood; two in favor, one abstained (D. Waldron). MOTION CARRIED

2. Financial

M. Kaulback informed members that the budget has not been finalized by the Board of Selectmen. The budget voted by residents was \$200,000 less than the default budget. The Cemetery Trustees budget was \$23,750. Two donations totaling \$3,000 were questioned and are being researched.

The Cemetery Fund in 2021 totaled \$128,000. Perpetual Care totaled \$497,000 in 2021 and can only be used for maintenance of plots. It cannot be used for cemetery upkeep, trees, stumps, or roads. Responding to a question from P. Hayden, M. Kaulback stated that the Perpetual Care would cover damage to a plot due to a fallen tree. The Cemetery Fund can be used for stump removal and roads. M. Kaulback explained that after they receive estimates, they would meet with the Trustees of the Trust Funds. They would notify the Selectmen of the work being done as a courtesy.

M. Kaulback explained that Dick Rugg was concerned about funds being available to purchase land in the future. Maloney Fields were cemetery land at one time. The same amount of land must be provided for a cemetery, if needed. Funds would still be needed for testing. At this time, there are over 100 two-person plots available in the cemetery for full burial. One cremation lot was sold in 2021.

3. Cemetery Repairs

A Certificate of Insurance will be needed from anyone doing work in the cemetery. The columbarium was discussed. Seacoast Memorials imports their granite from overseas. The freight is very expensive and the ships are backed up in the harbor. M. Kaulback will check other sources.

B. Ellwood received estimates for stone repairs. B. Ellwood has met with Stratham Stone at the cemetery. They selected stones that are in the most need of repair or have fallen. B. Ellwood felt the

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price was reasonable; Cemetery Trustees could not make the repairs and there was no help available. B. Ellwood has also met with someone from Seabrook and has not received an estimate.

There was a discussion about preventing further erosion. D. Waldron questioned working in that cemetery due to issues with the ground. With the condition of the soil around the stones, would it add to the problems? B. Ellwood felt Stratham Stone would be able to do the job. P. Hayden knows the woman at Stratham Stone and thought she would contact him. B. Ellwood recommended using Stratham Stone. P. Hayden suggested recording the repair process in case there were any questions. He also suggested using C-Channel metal to support the stones. B. Ellwood was unable to get three estimates.

MOTION: B. Ellwood moved to accept the estimate from Stratham Stone and start the work as soon as possible. Second – M. Kaulback; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

4. Stumps

B. Ellwood suggested accepting the quote from Jim Jones to remove stumps. B. Ellwood has tried to contact a local company several times and has not received a response. P. Hayden suggested contacting Perkins Excavation or Hartmann Excavation; he will contact Perkins Excavation for an estimate. There are approximately 96 stumps in the cemetery. P. Hayden had 167 trees taken down. There may be cremation plots available along the Bramber Valley side once the stumps were removed. P. Hayden stated they would have to be careful because it was very soft and too many vehicles drove in that area. B. Ellwood will contact J. Jones.

5. Roads

There was a discussion about the roads. M. Kaulback stated there would need to be several bids. P. Hayden stated a company with a skid steer and Harley rake could be hired to do grading where the stumps were removed. B. Ellwood noted there was a spot where water pooled and suggested a way to create a new environment for the water to pass through. P. Hayden responded that once it was graded and new soil brought in, it should drain.

B. Ellwood stated they should get the estimates and present them to the Trustees. M. Kaulback commented that she had contacted the State about how the accounts could be used. People contributed to the Perpetual Care fund for the upkeep of their plot and not the maintenance of the cemetery.

6. Other Business

Some stones were dug up in the old cemetery and left on the surface. There are some stones with crude writing on them. D. Waldron stated that while researching the old cemetery they found that people from the poor farm were buried at the front of the cemetery.

P. Hayden will contact Stratham Stone to schedule a time to do the stone repair. B. Ellwood will contact J. Jones about the estimate to remove stumps. P. Hayden will contact Perkins Excavation for an estimate to remove stumps. The consensus was to remove the stumps before contacting someone to repair the roads.

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7. Adjournment

MOTION: B. Ellwood moved to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Second – M. Kaulback; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – 7 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Submitted By: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant