



CEMETERY TRUSTEES
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Bob Ellwood, David Gill, Michele Kaulback

Also Present: Paul Hayden - Sexton

Chair Gill opened the Cemetery Trustees meeting at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Update Maps

Chair Gill received maps from P. Hayden. He will make four copies for the next meeting so the master can be updated. Chair Gill will get a copy of the maps to Donna Waldron, Historical Society.

2. Review Lot Pricing

Cremation lots are priced at \$500 for two. Some people are buying eight lots; others are buying two and only need one. Chair Gill asked members if they wanted to keep it at two lots knowing there are only a limited number of lots available for caskets. Or, did they want to sell one giving people the option to buy one or two. The consensus was they didn't want to sell less than two lots. The cost of two lots is \$1,000; a four person is \$2,000; an eight person is \$4,000. That will allow for a cremation to be put on top of each casket; two cremations equal one casket. P. Hayden noted a third cremation could not be added. Chair Gill stated that after making calls, Greenland is within the cost range. P. Hayden stated he's been told the cost of digging the cremation hole is less expensive than other towns. The Trustees had no concerns regarding the lot pricing.

P. Hayden noted that Paul Hughes would be "put to rest" Thursday, October 25, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. He will be buried on top of his father in the upper cemetery. P. Hayden will make sure the paperwork gets to the right people.

3. Calendar/Schedule

Chair Gill told members that weather-wise there would be only one more date to work in the cemetery. The next work date will be Sunday, October 28, 2018. P. Hayden will spread out the dirt pile after that date. Chair Gill stated there's at least two years of work to do. B. Ellwood asked if there was anything time-sensitive that should be done on Sunday, specifically anything that needed to be done before spring. Markers that have not been put in will be done as well as cleaning and labeling the cremation lots along the fence. Numbers and measuring should also be reviewed.

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Chair Gill stated he would like to have Amy Bauer start training members on the cemetery program. Chair Gill and M. Kaulback will bring their laptops. P. Hayden reminded members they were going to purchase a tablet. Chair Gill commented that there is another company that needs to be cancelled due to the cemetery program being online; he will check with the bookkeeper. Over the winter the Trustees will update information and maps as well as train on the new cemetery program.

P. Hayden noted there are only six weeks left for burials; the cemetery is closed once it snows.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Chair Gill moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday, September 25, 2018. Second – M. Kaulback; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

5. Other Business

D. Waldron gave a copy of the wording for the markers to members. The marker will be very identical to the marker on Post Road across from the Church. Consistency was necessary because the Historical Society's goal was to put markers at other locations in Town. D. Waldron noted that John Hirtle has been very helpful. D. Waldron will contact Zack's Signage for the cost. D. Waldron will be at the next meeting. There was a discussion about dates on headstones in the cemetery. P. Hayden clarified that headstones were found in other parts of Town and brought to the upper cemetery. Chair Gill stated that there are older headstones in the upper cemetery prior to 1925, which is on the description for the marker.

The Trustees took a short break.

P. Hayden thought there were 17 cemeteries in Town; A. Bauer told D. Waldron there were 36. Chair Gill will get D. Waldron a definite number. P. Hayden stated there was a small gravesite behind the Country View Restaurant on the river. There is also one on Vardon Lane. After searching the files, M. Kaulback reported there is a headstone dated 1862 in Prospect Hill Cemetery; there are possibly earlier dates. Chair Gill suggested D. Waldron visit the cemetery and check the headstones for dates. D. Waldron read a document that stated the Prospect Hill Cemetery opened in the 1800's. There were also dates in the 1700's.

There was a discussion about term expiration dates. M. Kaulback and B. Ellwood: term expires 2020; Chair Gill: term expires 2021.

B. Ellwood told members that the bronze plaque is missing from the rock in the Breakfast Hill Road cemetery.

Chair Gill has met with Alan Smith regarding the purchase of land. A. Smith is still interested. He told Chair Gill that the most important piece for the Town to purchase was the frontage. He's willing to sell the frontage (three acres) first, with a contract that the Town would purchase the land for \$200,000; the total purchase price would be approximately \$565,000. Chair Gill felt that was a viable option. B. Ellwood agreed that owning the frontage was the key to the back acreage. M. Kaulback stated that a separate estimate may be needed for the frontage. P. Hayden suggested that the contract be written stating the front would be purchased at a specific amount and the remainder would be purchased by a set date, for a total price of "X". Site work will not be needed.

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

There was a discussion about the Chick property. The beginning of the conversation could not be heard due to another conversation at the same time. Chair Gill didn't feel the Chick property was a viable location due to the ongoing projects in the vicinity of Maloney Field as well as the traffic on Rt. 95.

Chair Gill asked for the number of casket and cremation lots currently available for purchase; M. Kaulback will provide that information. She will also report on the number of lots sold. Chair Gill stated that 50% of the lot purchase goes to the Cemetery Fund; 50% goes to Perpetual Care. There is a disproportionate amount of Perpetual Care funds compared to Cemetery Funds. P. Hayden explained Cemetery funds are used by the Town for lawn care, fertilizer, etc. Perpetual Care money can only be used for emergency restoration due to weather, etc. The fund cannot be used to purchase land. There is enough money in the Cemetery Fund to purchase a columbarium. M. Kaulback suggested transferring money between the two accounts, if possible. They will check with Paul Sanderson.

Questions for discussion with the Board of Selectmen: (1) Do you believe the purchase of land for the Greenland Cemetery is fast, feasible, ethical and suitable with the population/demographics? (2) Does it make sense? (3) What will the burden be on the taxpayers if the land is purchased for \$565,000?

The Trustees will be starting the process for purchasing columbariums within the next 18 months. The Trustees discussed the best location for the columbariums as well as the purchase price for residents.

6. Adjournment

MOTION: Chair Gill moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Second – M. Kaulback; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 – 7 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: