DRAFT - SUBJECT TO CHANGE



CEMETERY TRUSTEES

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Bob Ellwood, Michele Kaulback

Members Absent: Donna Waldron Also Absent: Paul Hayden – Sexton

M. Kaulback opened the Cemetery Trustees meeting at 6:57 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; she announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Other Business

Dick Rugg, 25 Stratham Lane: He attended the budget public hearing on January 11, 2022. The total Cemetery budget is \$23,750. D. Rugg asked the Trustees to consider allowing him to make an amendment at the Deliberative Session to add \$20,000 to the Contracted Services line to fix some things at the cemetery. The most important item was to deal with the tree roots coming through the graves. B. Ellwood noted this was discussed at a meeting several months ago. The roots, which the Trustees do not like, are holding the trees up. If the roots are removed, trees may be lost. It was stated that the diseased trees were on the outside of the fence. D. Rugg suggested a backhoe be used to run it down and cut the roots; if the trees come down, they will not fall into the cemetery, they will fall on the Transfer Station side.

- B. Ellwood wanted to discuss removing stumps, paving, filling the potholes and the columbariums. He would like to get issues resolved. B. Ellwood suggested two to three yards of dirt and pave it a little higher. D. Rugg stated there would still be roots in the cemetery around the graves. D. Rugg received estimates from people he knows in the contracting business.
- D. Rugg also suggested putting a dry well in the water hole on the other side. It would be a 6-foot concrete structure with a cover on top that could hold up to traffic. Once the structure was in place, stone would be put around it. Responding to a question from M. Kaulback, B. Ellwood stated it would be part of the road. B. Ellwood suggested rather than doing that, raise it a foot so the water could percolate all over.

There was a discussion about the use of the Perpetual Care Fund and repairing stones in the cemetery. D. Rugg noted that if the stones were in the old cemetery, Perpetual Care Funds, through the Trustees of the Trust Funds, would cover 50% of the cost.

D. Rugg proposed that the Cemetery Trustees budget be increased by \$20,000 at Deliberative Session. He will make the motion with the Cemetery Trustees permission. It was clarified that Perpetual Care Funds were used for cemetery care; Cemetery Funds were used to purchase new cemetery land. M.

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Kaulback thought those funds, according to the RSA, could be used for cemetery upkeep; D. Rugg stated he could not find the warrant article where it was passed.

A \$20,000 increase in the Cemetery Trustees budget could be used for the drainage system and to remove roots. B. Ellwood wanted to get some of the jobs done. The Cemetery Trustees approved D. Rugg making the motion at Deliberative Session to increase the Contracted Services line by \$20,000.

Water Bill: The Cemetery Trustees will be billed for water which is expected to be between \$70 and \$80 per month. B. Ellwood questioned the amount; M. Kaulback noted there was a separate meter located in the school basement.

Mowing Estimates: B. Ellwood contacted ten people for mowing estimates. While many contractors responded 'no', some did not respond. One contractor said 'yes' but has not sent an estimate.

Work to be Done: B. Ellwood would like to get something done on the paving, columbarium, and stump removal. Where did the funding come from? Is approval needed from the Selectmen? M. Kaulback will get clarification about using funds from the Cemetery Fund for upkeep and roads. Columbariums were briefly discussed.

2. Adjournment

MOTION: M. Kaulback moved to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Second – B. Ellwood; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 – 7 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Submitted By: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant