

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
CEMETERY TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Meeting- September 10, 2013

Present Jill Young
 Karen Bartlett
 Shelagh Clough

Guest Joshua Segal

Jill Young called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The minutes of the July 9, 2013 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

It was noted that the cemeteries will be closed soon for the winter season. A chain will be placed on Sunnyside Cemetery for Halloween. The cemeteries are off limits to the public on Halloween. A letter will be sent to the school as a reminder that there is no sliding allowed in the cemetery.

Jill reported that she has had a complaint about the condition of the cemetery grounds. It was discussed and the Trustees felt that this is a case of timing as the cemeteries were mowed a day or two after a burial.

Jill reported that she has had a request to place a bench in the cemetery for the public to use. The location of the bench would be beside a lot, on land that could not be used for another lot. The Trustees agreed to send written permission for the placement of a bench.

Jill reported that the flat stones on one of the lots have been moved to be in line with the other stone on the lot.

Jill will talk to the Administration about the use of the computer. It was noted that the computer does not work well.

The Cemetery Trustees have had more inquiries about a burial that is on private land. Jill has contacted the landowner to let him know that there is interest in the site. It was noted that there is also family buried in Francestown.

It was noted that the water has been shut off in the cemetery due to a leak. The water is back on now.

Jill reported that she has a quote for the letters for the Sunnyside Cemetery gate. The letters will cost approximately \$500 to replace. Jill will let Gary Russell know that he can order the letters.

The signs at the cemetery need to be replaced. The old signs had been covered with plexiglas. Jill will get a price for new signs.

It was noted that the Trustees have received a letter from Mr. Segal with some suggestions for the Trustees. The letter asked questions about some damage to a stone. The damage appears to be from a trimmer. This is an unfortunate part of maintenance. The trees that need attention are to be in the budget for next spring. Mr. Segal had some positive suggestions for the Trustees.

It was noted that the tomb at Sunnyside Cemetery has notable rippling on it.

A cemetery lot has been transferred from the purchaser to a new owner. The new owner will be mailed the lot certificate.

Karen will ask the Assistant Administrator to research possible grants to take care of the trees in the cemeteries. Evergreen Cemetery has 3 trees at the entry that should be removed and more at the other end and in back.

Mr. Segal spoke to the Trustees questioning the ability to use land in the cemetery where a proposed bench is to be placed. It was noted that it is not practical to sell the land as a lot as the tree roots are too dense in the area. Mr. Segal asked about straightening a stone that has been damaged. It was explained that the damage is due to vandalism. Jill will contact Terry Knowles to see if there are new rules, but it is believed that the stone can not be touched. Mr. Segal noted that there is a Good Samaritan law that has been passed in New Hampshire that might allow for restoration. He also noted that there are matching grants for cemeteries. Mr. Segal asked about giving a guided Veterans Tour around Memorial Day. He was told to ask for stories from locals at the VFW or David Glynn. A tour will be scheduled after the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Segal inquired about running for an elected position for the Trustees in March. Shelagh is planning on running again in March. It was suggested that the Trustees look into the possibility of having an alternate on the Board. Mr. Segal suggested that the Trustees replace the signs at the cemeteries with laminated signs that can be easily replaced as needed.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Debra Belcher
Cemetery Trustee Recording Secretary