

TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
CEMETERY TRUSTEES  
Minutes of the Meeting- August 12, 2014

Present        Jill Young  
                  Karen Bartlett  
                  Joshua Segal

Guests        Valerie Germain, Trustee of Trust Funds  
                  Mark Mackesey, Trustee of Trust Funds  
                  Denise French, Town Administrator

Jill called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

The minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

It was noted that the contract with Mr. Gagnon is through 2015, not 2016 as stated in the previous meeting.

The Trustees discussed the possibility of using the prisoners to do cemetery clean-up. They are available to the Town for \$1000 per week. At this time the Trustees are under contract with Mr. Gagnon and will revisit the issue at the end of the contract.

The clean-up work for the big tree that came down in Evergreen Cemetery has been completed by Ray Lyons Jr. He charged \$300 to take out the tree. The Trustees will look at two dead trees in the back of the cemetery to possibly have taken care of while the equipment is in place.

It was noted that Jill has been working on removing small trees and vines on the Eaton Avenue side of Sunnyside Cemetery. She will be continuing up the hill. The lettering for the cemetery gate has been held up as the Road Agent has been busy with the Bible Hill project.

Jill has contacted Brenda Wesley about the signage in the Catholic Cemetery. Brenda will be getting information for Jill.

It was noted that Jill has spoken to three teenagers in Sunnyside Cemetery who were sitting on the tomb and throwing things. The teenagers were asked to leave. An elderly woman and young girl were also seen walking a dog in the cemetery. It appears that more people are walking the cemeteries now.

The Trustees voted to have the big map of the cemetery scanned so that there will be an electronic copy. Joshua will have the copy made and the Trustees will print out copies so that they can have a working copy on hand. It was also voted to reimburse Joshua for materials used for the gravestone project.

The bid package was reviewed and will be sent out. The cover letter will be put on Town letterhead and copies will be made to send out for bids. Six copies of the bid package will be made.

The Trustees discussed the possibility of having the Boy Scouts help with the cleaning of the gravestones. Joshua has offered to do a one day project teaching the Scouts to clean the stones. No chemicals will be used by the Scouts.

Joshua noted the need for a flag holder for Edwin George. His name has been misspelled on the monument in the center of Town and he does not appear to be on any list to receive a flag and marker.

Valerie Germain updated the Trustees on the expendable income for the Cemetery Trustees. A Cemetery Maintenance Trust Fund will be put on the warrant in March. As there is no longer perpetual care on new lots sold, the portion other than what the Town receives for the land will go into this fund. The Trustees will need to send a request to the Trustees of Trust Funds to use this money for cemetery maintenance. A spreadsheet given to the Trustees shows that some of the money from lots sold had been in the general fund. It has now been put into the account for cemetery maintenance. Valerie stated that their advisor had them put this money in the Sunnyside Trust account.

Denise French noted that she has received an e-mail inquiring about the Charitable Trust Funds and how the monies are being spent. The donor to the fund is David Glynn and he would like to know what the plan for upkeep in the cemetery is. The Administrator will send him a copy of the bid package and note the fence work that is being done. The Trustees are hoping to get the bid packages out within the month and have the work done by the end of October.

The Administrator noted that the Trustees had asked that a raise be given to the Recording Secretary. This is not something that can be done.

Mr. Kaufold had placed the cornerstones on the Highland lot.

Mrs. Taylor has asked about the availability of spots left in the cemetery.

Karen met with an individual about the Coffin lot. They have inquired about spaces to be used for cremains and noticed lots that did not have names on them. Karen was not sure if the lots are actually available or if they are unusable.

The Trustees will check to see if the deeds have the RSA requirement of buy back information on them.

Joshua suggested that the Trustees be able to approve all inscriptions. This was tabled until the next meeting.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher  
Cemetery Trustee Recording Secretary