

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
CEMETERY TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Meeting- June 9, 2015

Present Karen Bartlett
 Joshua Segal

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The minutes of the May 12, 2015 meeting were reviewed and accepted with a minor correction.

Joshua reported 2 broken flag markers in Sunnyside Cemetery and 2 in Evergreen Cemetery. Peter Martel Sr. had reported them and suggested that it may have been the result of grounds keeping. Joshua assured him that Mr. Gagnon is very careful. The VFW puts the flag markers out and bills the Town for them. It was suggested that one flag pole be put up in each cemetery instead of continuing the practice of a flag on each of the soldier's graves as the VFW will not be able to continue this service due to how few VFW members there are. Karen suggested that the Trustees might want to consider adding a line item for flags and holders in the budget next year. The Trustees tabled the subject to be revisited at a later time.

Karen presented the materials from the Cemetery class attended in Concord. Jill and Joshua were unable to attend. Karen made a motion that the Recording Secretary be paid for attending the class. All were in favor. Karen gave an update on the highlights of the class. A question and answer hub is being created for the Trustees in the area. Karen will e-mail the Trustee in charge to make sure our Trustees can benefit from this. A law change (SP219) noted that funds received from the land sale of cemetery lots can go to the general fund or for cemetery maintenance. It was also stressed that the Trustees need to adopt a retention schedule per RSA: 91a. Karen noted that most everything related to the Cemetery records should be a permanent record.

It was noted that it appears that the bill for New England Grave Stone Services was charged to the cemetery line item instead of from the Catholic Charity Fund. Karen will check with Val. Joshua will check to make sure the bill has been paid.

Karen reported that she spoke with Kristie on the 21st about the bill from Mr. Gagnon. Kristie stated that she filed the bill, but was planning to pay him \$500. Mr. Gagnon has requested full payment and the Trustees have authorized the payment. Karen corrected Kristie noting the

request for \$7,125. The bill has been partially paid as Kristie paid \$5100. The fall clean-up amount was subtracted.

Joshua stated that he has had 4 monuments in Evergreen Cemetery evaluated as they are in danger of toppling over. He was quoted around \$800 for the repairs by New England Grave Stone Services. There are also footstones in the wrong place. It was questioned if the Trustees need to get bids each time work needs to be done as this is an on-going project. It was noted that the repairs that have been done were voted on last year. They were paid from this year's budget. It was noted that the repairs done in Sunnyside Cemetery were paid through the Catholic Charities Fund so work in Evergreen Cemetery could be paid for through the line item. Karen will request a revenue report from Kristie.

In other business, a bill for \$150 from Mr. Kaufold for straightening stones, pouring a footing and standing up a small marble stone was authorized for payment.

Joshua made a motion to approve New England Grave Stone Services for repair work in Evergreen Cemetery pending the Selectmen's approval and availability of funds. Karen will notify the Selectmen of the plan to repair 4 monuments and straighten slates.

It was noted that the letters for the Sunnyside Cemetery gate are being made locally.

Karen reported that she has been contacted about a Massachusetts resident wishing to bury their mother in Bennington. The mother owns a lot and the desire is to have her ashes buried in the lot. Karen supplied the individual with the phone number of the individual who could help in the burial. It was noted that a Trustee will need to be present at the time of the digging.

Joshua noted that while comparing information he has with the information in the Evergreen book at the library he has found missing pages and duplicate pages. This would be a good winter project for the Cemetery Trustees.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher
Cemetery Trustee Recording Secretary