

TOWN OF BENINGTON
CEMETERY TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Meeting- January 19, 2016

Present Karen Bartlett
 Joshua Segal

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

The minutes of the December 8, 2015 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Joshua gave an update on the proposed work on the fence around Sunnyside Cemetery. Mike Crowe from Iron World has walked around the cemetery to evaluate the fencing that abuts the road on two sides of the cemetery. The fencing that runs along Bible Hill Road is in very poor condition due to the erosion from road salt. Joshua noted that the section of fence located at 9 Bible Hill Road is in reasonable condition. The portion of the fence located along Eaton Avenue is in better condition than the Bible Hill Road side. The estimate for the Bible Hill Road portion of the fence by Iron World is just under \$11,000. It was suggested that the Trustees contact John Griffin, who made the cemetery gate letters to see if he knows of other people that the Trustees could get an estimate from. It might be possible to get a Moose Grant for the work on the fence. Karen will work on a proposal for the grant. The fence project was tabled until springtime.

The Trustees reviewed the Cemetery Expenditures. Both Alpha Graphics and Grave Stone Services of New England have been paid. It was noted that the Road Agent needed materials for putting the new letters on the Sunnyside Cemetery gate. The materials were purchased without the Cemetery Trustees' knowledge. When the bill was received by the Town, the Administrator signed for it and gave the Trustees a courtesy copy. The Trustees noted that in the future protocol should be followed and the Cemetery Trustees should be informed of what is going on with their department.

Karen noted that she has spoken to two of the Selectmen about recognizing Jill Young for the years of service she has given to the Town on behalf of the Cemetery Trustees. The Selectmen suggested a possibility of a plaque, but would discuss it at a Selectmen's meeting. Karen and Joshua agreed to purchase a gift card to Olive Garden for Jill.

Joshua shared a copy of the Evergreen map which has the three portions of the Cemetery integrated together. He also shared the index for the cemetery book that he has been working on.

Joshua has spoken to Terry Knowles about the possibility of using the east side of Evergreen Cemetery for cremains. There is no record of burials there and Terry said that the space may be used as long as no human remains are found. It was noted that cremains would be buried no deeper than three feet. A concern was expressed that if a body had been "snuck in" and buried along the side of the cemetery, remains might be discovered during a cremains burial. Joshua suggested setting up an area that could accommodate twelve cremains sites. The subject was tabled.

The Trustees received old burial permits and death certificates from the 1800's and early 1900's to be researched.

It was noted that there will be no meeting on February 9, 2016. The meeting for March will be changed from March 8, 2016 to March 15, 2016 due to the Town election. The Cemetery Trustees currently have two positions that will appear on the March ballot, both a two year and a three year position. The Trustees agreed to change their meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Jill Young will be invited to the March 15, 2016 meeting.

In other business, it was noted that the Trustees need to obtain bids for lawn care before spring.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher
Cemetery Trustee Recording Secretary