

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
CEMETERY TRUSTEES

Minutes of the Meeting- June 14, 2016

Minutes accepted on July 12, 2016

Present Karen Bartlett, Chairman
 Joshua Segal
 Melissa Clark

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The minutes of the May 10, 2016 meeting were reviewed and accepted with minor changes.

Karen reported that she has not received an answer from the Selectmen about encumbering money for the cemetery fence or honoring Jill Young for the many years of service to the Town.

The Trustees reviewed a draft of a document to be signed by both the Selectmen and the Cemetery Trustees in reference to the procedure of Cemetery Deeds. Joshua made a motion to accept the document and Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

It was noted that there is currently \$34,594.98 in the Lizzy Holt Evergreen Trust Fund. The Trustees of the Trust Fund are looking into the ability to access this money and if the Cemetery Trustees may use principle as well as interest. Administrator French submitted information about the Trust fund noting that the fund was left to the Cemetery Trustees in Lizzy Holt's will. The Trustees discussed possible uses for the money such as possible tree work including removal, grinding stumps and planting new smaller trees. Joshua noted that there are three large trees on the east side of Evergreen Cemetery that should be removed.

It was noted that the Sunnyside Expendable Trust Fund currently has \$8,419.62. The Trustees will ask the Administrator to inquire about the possible stonework with the donor. Joshua noted that there is a tree branch that has come down in Sunnyside Cemetery and it might have hit a marker. Joshua is also looking into grants that may be used for the stones or fencing in the cemetery.

A highlighted copy of Selectmen's minutes from March 2013 discussing fundraising was put in the Trustees' box. According to Terry Knowles, the Trustees may do fundraising for projects such as the cemetery fence as long as good records are kept.

The Trustees tabled the discussion about lot price increases until such time as the Town has voted on the Warrant Article so that the Cemetery Trustees can access a portion of the lot sales

for use of upkeep of the lots. Karen presented statistics from the past 16 years of sales noting that since the price of lots increased 5 years ago, only 6 lots have been sold.

The Trustees discussed the Cemetery Trustees' Seminar that was attended. It was suggested that the Town provide a Memorial Garden in the cemetery. Funds could be raised by selling bricks with names or messages on them.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher
Cemetery Trustee Recording Secretary