

Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes, May 31st, 2018

Present: Earlene Forbes, Fran Cerulli, Cheri Goldstein

Earlene called the meeting to order at 5:35.

Minutes of March 29, 2018 meeting were read and unanimously approved.

Hazardous tree removal was discussed: Earlene will contact loggers to get bids. Fran will contact Lamoille County Forester Rick Dyer to see if he will be willing to walk loggers through the cemeteries to give them the scope of the job. Fran talked about her efforts so far to find financial help for removal of hazardous trees around the cemeteries: a) UVM Extension Service Urban Forestry students only plant trees, don't remove them. Fran will see if grants are available from Vermont Emergency Management or Historic Preservation groups to see if there is funding available, once cost has been determined. No tree removal will be done until after cemetery closes for the winter.

Regarding any harm from falling trees, town insurance covers any damages which happen on town property. Since cemetery lands are owned by the town, any costs should be covered. Fran will check with Katie Winkeljohn to ascertain the scope of insurance regarding cemeteries.

False spirea, an invasive shrub which is growing between the two cemeteries, is starting to spread. It needs to be kept cut back throughout the summer. Earlene will check with Dennis Bador, who expressed willingness to keep it under control. In the fall, after the false spirea dies back, Rick Dyer will use insecticide which he already has to eradicate it. There will be no cost.

The Worcester Historical Society has asked for permission to do the second step of cleaning headstones in the Village Cemetery with the same cleaner they used last year. Cheri motioned to approve, and all agreed. Earlene will notify David Book of the commission's decision.

Earlene said that the new agent replacing Mark Perry at Edward Jones, who handles investments and accounts for the commission, is less than timely and responsive to her questions and concerns. Cheri and Fran encouraged her to find someone else in the company. Earlene will call Mark Perry for a recommendation.

Earlene informed the other commissioners that she will be stepping down when her term expires in March. Her responsibilities will need to be delegated to other members.

Cheri is willing to take over keeping track of commission's finances. Fran will be present for burials. Both Fran and Cheri want to be prepared to sell and keep track of burial plots, which up until now Earlene has done. Cheri wants to learn more about writing up deeds for sale of burial plots, and Fran will help her with this. Fran wants to learn more about the maps and location of plots. Earlene will help them both.

The map of the Village Cemetery needs permanent preserving and laminating.

Pins marking plots, both full graves and crematory lots, are all done and paid for. Parking on top of crematory pins is probably not good for them, commissioners agreed, and cars are habitually parked in the now-empty crematory section of the Mountain Cemetery during funeral services. It was agreed that some sort of removable roped barrier should be put up during services, and attendees encouraged to park along the road rather than on top of the crematory section.

For 2019 and beyond, fees and duties of the sexton (Joe Mangan of Kirkyard Services) will need to be clarified and contracted.

The informational pamphlet detailing costs and fees for cemetery lots and services as well as cemetery rules and regulations needs updating and clarifying. Fran will mail the current document to Cheri and they will work on this together.

The next meeting was set for Thursday July 12th at 5:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francette Cerulli, Clerk