

Town of Amherst, NH
Cemetery Trustee Meeting
22 Dodge Rd
May 25, 2023
7:30 AM

Call to Order at 7:35 am

Marie Grella, Chairperson; Cynthia Dokmo, member; Lisa Eastland, member; Peter Lyon, Selectman; Eric Slosek, DPW Director; Perry Day, Sexton; Pat Delisle attending.

Citizen Forum; Cindy Kendall is present to discuss her fathers' bench. 5 Years ago her sister was visiting the grave, she touched the bench and it collapsed. Her brother-in-law tried to put it back together, and they called the Town to report the damage. The town repaired the bench. The bench was made by Medlyn Monument; they don't know how it broke. Cindy had another monument company look at the benches and they believe a lawn mower hit it and also that the bench needed to be replaced. Lisa asks if frost heaves could have caused the break, if there was a crack and water got in there, it could have broken it. Eric states that it's hard to say how it could have happened, at this point everything discussed is speculation. Lisa is not convinced that the Cemetery Trustees are liable for repair or a replacement, It can't be said that it was any employees that did the actual damage. Marie states that the town does not own the monument only the ground that it is on. If we knew that we did cause the damage we would take responsibility for it. Eric states that for any damage related to the Town, like a flat tire by a pothole, would go to our insurance. Peter suggests that this be submitted to Primex as a claim. After more discussion it is decided that we would submit a claim and let Primex decide. Cindy will email details as well as some pictures to submit this claim.

Minutes: Lisa as about line 12, 14 and 15 it should be mowings. Also Cynthia said she was going to contact John Rizzi in regards to selling off part of Forestview, Lisa would like to add that. Cynthia moves to approve the minutes with these amendments, seconded by Lisa, all in favor, motion passes.

Reorganization of the Commission: Since there was an election, reorganization of the board is required Cynthia nominates Marie as the Chair, Lisa seconds, motion approved.

Cynthia did contact John Rizzi and he suggested doing an RFP when we know what portions of land to sell.

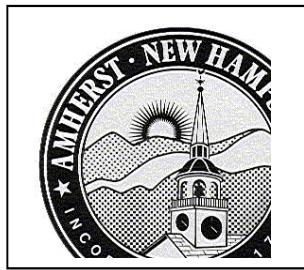
Meeting dates need to be more consistent, suggests Cynthia, all members agree. If a member cannot attend, they should call in.

Cynthia would like to make the following changes to Rule & Regulations:

Section D PLANTINGS AND MARKERS

3) The Cemetery Sexton will oversee all plantings. With the exception of sanctioned Memorial Trees and containers as discussed below as well as trees and shrubs planted prior to December 7, 2001, planting of shrubs, trees and flowers is prohibited.

It is the duty of lot owner or its heirs or assigns to maintain any permitted plantings. If plantings hinder maintenance, disrupt the aesthetic of the Cemetery or by means of roots or branches, become detrimental to the lot, or to the adjacent lots, avenues or paths. Trustee or their agent, have the right, but



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not the duty, to enter the lot and remove said trees, shrubs, plantings or containers, without notice to the lot owner or its heirs or assigns.

With the prior written permission of the Trustees, flower containers are permitted provided that they are permanently affixed to the marker or are partially buried and closely abut the marker. Said container cannot extend beyond the length of the marker.

Flower pots are permitted and may be removed when they are wilted.

The Cemetery Trustees are not responsible for any damages to benches or headstones.

Payments: Lisa makes a motion to Knotts Land Care invoice # 4584 in the amount of \$920.61 out of the outside hire line as well as the Cemsites invoice #21215 in the amount of \$11,740.00 for the Cemetery software from outside hire from the G/L #01-4312-10-2451.
Marie seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Solar Lights: Lisa is very disappointed in the solar light at Forestview. Peter suggests that the trustees Contact SHS to find out how they light their flag.

Scatter garden stone: Lisa makes a motion to approve the stone at the Scatter garden in Meadowview Cemetery.

Planters: Marie has researched these and has found 3 sizes. The planter cannot be longer than the headstone length. The trustees are not responsible for purchasing or placing these planters.
In the June meeting the verbiage for planters will need to be added.

Marie and Perry met with John from Amherst Garden at Forestview Cemetery. The Amherst Garden Shop has donated over 2000 bulbs that will be planted, Marie will reach out to the Amherst Garden Club, the High School for kids looking for community service hours to obtain volunteers to plant the bulbs. They will be planted between the road and the fence. John will place tubs where he thought they should be planted. Marie would like to have them planted before July when they are planning an open house type of ceremony at Forestview. They will spend no more than \$3000 for trees and other plantings.

Lisa makes the motion to authorize spending up to \$3000 on Forestview beautification, Marie seconds, motion passes. Discussion regarding volunteers follows and if the Town's insurance approves them.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2023.

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Respectfully submitted,
Pat Delisle