

CEMETERY TRUSTEES MEETING

June 20, 2014

This meeting was called to order by Chairman Peter Bergin at 7:35 am. In attendance: Peter Bergin, Chairman, Bill Belvin and Marie Grella, Pat Delisle Executive Assistant, residents Karen Blood, Katie Buttons and Wendy Rannenberg.

Citizen Forum: Wendy Rannenberg asks what the plans are for the recreation equipment that is at Cemetery Fields. Peter refers to the Memorandum of Understanding, and explains that there is a breakdown of what will be removed and by whom.

Katie Button mentioned the April 7th meeting and their minutes, minutes should memorialize what was said at a meeting and they should be accurate. This meeting was scheduled for June 19th within the minutes. Karen Blood is in agreement that minutes do need to be accurate, but the articles that Katie posts need to be accurate also. Katie advises that these are her opinions that she is writing.

Review of the revised “Rules and Regulations” along with the cost of Lots and Burial Fees: The Cemetery Trustees deferred this to the next meeting so that they have an opportunity to review more thoroughly.

It was decided that Bill Belvin will be the representative for the Cemetery Trustees at the Board of Selectman meetings. If there are 2 trustees present it would constitute a meeting. Bill is to draft a proposed MOU between the Amherst BOS and CT, and discuss this Draft with Brad, after a review with the other Cemetery Trustees. The next Board of Selectman meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2014 to discuss the “Statement of funds” discussion follows as pertaining to strategy.

Reissue of Deeds: Several people have asked if they could get a clearer deed as the one they have was issued years ago and is very hard for them to read. This is a question for Terry Knowles at the Attorney General office. Katie asks: How would we determine if someone has the right to be buried in a lot if they do not have a Deed? If they do not have a deed or it does not specify in a persons’ “Will” the individual must go to probate court for a decision. Proof needs to be given, or found, that this person has the right to be buried in the desired Lot. Karen runs into this frequently, in most scenarios the burden of proof falls on the person who wants to be buried there or bury someone there.

Brad would like to discuss the irrigation system at Cemetery Fields; can they postpone blowing it out? After so discussion it is agreed upon that the irrigation system will be left the way it is.

Budget Transfers: Bill Belvin makes a motion to approve the transfer as outlined seconded by Marie Grella. All in favor, motion passes.

Discussions: Marie has been asked why a headstone is not allowed on single grave lots. The reason being that the width of a single grave is 40 inches and a headstone can be 36 inches, this does not allow for walking space between graves and maintenance for headstones.

The signage at Cemetery Fields needs to be changed to “Forestview Cemetery” and the gates need to be closed. It should be investigated if there is a possibility for a sign that says: “No longer available for recreation – Closed – Police take notice”

Lisa Eastlin inquires about the mapping software and who researched it? The Cemeteries already use software from HMIS. The mapping is a new feature for the HMIS software. We are currently

waiting for a reply from Attorney Drescher as to the trust purchasing this feature. Lisa asks if the software will tell us if someone is buried in a grave or if it is empty. Peter replies that it will according to the mapping and the current records. We had used ground sounding in the past at Cricket Corner Cemetery and it was indecisive. At Meadowview the digital record will let us know easily which graves are available and which graves are obstructed with trees or large boulders. Bill states that normally the Trustees would follow Town policy for bids on purchases. Karen states that the mapping will show who owns the lot not who is interned. Years ago, prior to 1934, people would bury whoever they wanted, wherever they wanted. People purchased 4 grave lots and moved to Florida and are buried there. Lisa looks at this as money that the Town could be making, if we show 100 graves available but we actually have 300 that's money for the town. Peter states that this is trust money. Lisa asks; If she purchases a 4 grave lot would each of the 4 people that would be interned there be required to have a "Right to Inter" or would all 4 people be included on one "Right to Inter"? Four people, or more would have to be listed on 1 "Right to Inter"

Karen asks about several Cemetery Headstones that were repaired recently and were not repaired in the same manner others were repaired. Marie will meet with Karen to discuss these stones. Other concerns are the "Grasshopper Sparrow", the poles in the rope off area protecting them are being removed somehow. The DPW will look into this and the sign display near the area. The next meeting of the Cemetery Trustees will be announced at a later date. Please look for the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Delisle
Executive Assistant