

CEMETERY TRUSTEES MEETING

Thursday March 30, 2017

In attendance: Marie Grella, Chairperson, Cynthia Dokmo, Lisa Eastland, Bruce Berry, Sexton, Nate Jensen, Pat Delisle, Exe. Asst., Mr. Roberts and Jacob Roberts.

The meeting was called to order by Marie Grella at 1:00 pm

Eagle Scout Project: Jacob Roberts researched the difference between a Memory and a scatter Garden and found that they are basically the same thing, both are locations where you bury or spread cremated remains. The size is based on the population of the community. The most current information Jacob found was that Amherst population is 11,201 as of 2010. Restriction that he found were that any plaque has to be approved; it needs to be easily maintainable, no wood or anything that can biodegrade; no markers for individual headstone allowed in a memory garden; no spot lights can be added without approval; the garden cannot be dedicated to a specific group or individual. Location; needs to be in a easily accessible area the area near Sunset Road which would be the right size, or the area near Christian Hill Rd. in the flats. To meet the requirement of easily accessible; the area near Sunset Rd would be accessible as it is right off Sunset Rd. To address the low maintenance; Jacob was looking at having a rock with a plaque or a tree in the middle of the designated area. There would be perennials which would come back every year and provide one blooming flower from spring to fall.

Marie asks if Jacob has researched how the ashes are taken care of when they come to the Memory Garden. The ashes would be in biodegradable urns and are buried in the ground. Are there limitations as to how many burials can be in a certain area? Are there specifications regarding the distance between burials? This information would have to be specified.

In regards to the area near Sunset, the gated is typically closed and people do not usually enter from this side of the cemetery and they don't know of it. The area near Christian Hill Rd. would be apparent from the main road, it is a sunny area, and may make the spaces around it more appealing. Another area, unsure if there is enough space is near the civil war memorial overlooking the meadow. The problem would be that it is in the back of the cemetery and people don't purposely go back there, it is a very pretty area. The Cemetery Trustees could start with a 15'x15' area and if this is popular they could expand as needed. They would like to walk around the 3 suggested areas and make a decision. Currently the cemeteries are unpassable due to the weather. It is agreed upon that Jacob would use the design with the highest cost, a donation will be discussion continues regarding flower type, the possibility of memorial bushes, memorial trees, funding and location.

Cynthia Dokmo makes a motion to give Jacob Roberts preliminary approved to create a memory garden in Meadowview Cemetery, seconded by Lisa all in favor, motion passes.

Tree Removal: 2 trees at the Town Cemetery. These trees are in bad shape and need to be taken down. If the money comes from a trust fund it can only come from the restricted trust fund. Only part of it can come from the budget. The prices submitted to the Cemetery Trustees are for both trees to be cut and removed, it doesn't include the cost of having the stumps removed. If the stumps were removed it would require the state archeologist, this would have the potential of disturbing graves, this could be ground at a later date. Both trees would require the use of a crane. The lowest bid is from Souhegan Valley Tree Services, LLC. A crane would be used on both trees. At the time of the removal the road will be temporarily closed. Mr. Berry will be in touch with the residents and advise them of this. Lisa makes a motion to withdraw \$1,000.00

from tree care line in the budget and the balance (1,400.00) be withdrawn from the unrestricted trust fund, Cynthia seconds, all in favor, the motion passes.
The vendor will need to be notified that \$1000.00 would be paid right away but the \$1,400.00 could take some time to be withdrawn from the trust fund. The Trustees of the Trust Fund will need the minutes from this meeting to approve a withdrawal.

Opening of the cemeteries:

Lisa makes a motion to keep the cemeteries closed until further notice; the DPW will advise the Cemetery Trustees when it is appropriate to open it, seconded by Cynthia, all in favor, motion passes.

The next Cemetery Trustee meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2017 at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Delisle