

May, 2015 Cemetery Trustees' Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

5/12/15 @ 5:00; Town Office Building

Present: Dale Milne, Charles Moore, Rick Corbett, Trustees; Frank Anderson, Sexton & George McCusker, Selectboard Liason

The first order of business was to welcome Rick Corbett to the group. He replaces Tim Hayes as our newest Cemetery Commission Trustee, and agreed to learn from Frank how to sell lots. Next, the group approved the April meeting minutes.

Following the introductory items, the group addressed projects underway: Memorial Day & the condition of the grounds, water barrels, and the availability of the inmates from Sullivan County to help cleanup at Pleasant View and Messer Hill. As Pixie Hill reported in the weekly paper, our cemeteries are now open for planting and visits. The Memorial Day Service will be held Sunday, May 24th at 10:00, with a new chair, Kenny Butcher. The spring cleanup is "mostly done", according to Frank, including removal of a tree that was leaning on the shed. Because Sullivan County is short on guards, the inmates who were expected to help out for 2-3 days may not be coming. This would affect the Messer Hill plots more than Pleasant View, as the latter is nearly done. Rick suggested that Frank contact Merrimack County for inmate volunteers. Chuck still has two blue water barrels to donate, and George said that SFD has a large white barrel that might go well at the lower end of the burial ground. Both types of barrels will need a wood frame to hold them safely in place. Dale emphasized that they should be placed in a handy, but unobtrusive spot, if possible.

Under budget items were three issues: the gasoline question from April, purchase of safety equipment for Frank and stone repair plans for 2015. The \$76.+ from our budget apparently reflected Pete Abair's estimate when he filled the fuel cans for Frank's tools. Frank wondered why 7.5 gallons would cost so much, but did mention that he refills his fuel cans from the Highway Department supply, whenever he needs more. He has not been to Awl & Awl for safety equipment, but plans to get there on Thursday, May 14. Under stone repair costs from capitol improvements, we reviewed the two firms we have used in the past. Chuck and Dale noted that NE Gravestone Repair came two years in a row, and charged under estimate, but because Frank would like to use Stone Vault in Newport, Chuck will give them a call to see if they can help us in July. Their estimated cost is lower than NE Gravestone, but last year, when we tried to use them, they didn't show up, nor did they call. If their work is good this year, we will consider using them in following years.

In other business, Frank told the group that we are budgeted to have Fox Tree remove 4-5 trees @ \$1400, but he would not like to have them in until the roads are repaired from winter, possibly July. He also pointed out that the updated rules and regulations have not been posted at Pleasant View. Dale will e-mail the list to the town office so that it can be printed up and posted. She will also try to get the regulations onto the website, along with the request that NO GLASS containers be

used for flowers. Frank has already been cut this year from broken glass. George emphasized that broken glass is a danger to our employees and a hazard to visitors, and called the no glass rule "urgent". He also reminded us that, for many taxpayers, the condition of the cemeteries and other public properties is a reflection of their pride in this town; when the town grounds look good, they feel good about being residents and taxpayers.

George reminded Frank and Rick that the Selectboard requires that any person running a chainsaw or other equipment on town grounds must not do so alone, but be in the company of another employee. Next week will be a busy one for mowing, and with Peter Abair away, the Highway Department will be short handed. Rick and Frank assured the group that planning is done carefully between SHD and the Cemetery. They are confident that the work will be completed by the 24th.

In one last item, George praised the Springfield Garden Club for their offer, to not only buy and plant flowers, but to purchase mulch, as well, but the town will buy the mulch. Janet Hendell has offered to water the flowers during the summer. Dale suggested that she be contacted re: the placement of water barrels.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15.

The June meeting will be held on June 9 @ 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale T Milne

AGENDA – JUNE 9, 2015:

1. Approve minutes of May meeting
2. Memorial Day Report
3. Water barrel placement report - Chuck
4. Working in pairs – has it worked so far?
5. Safety equipment purchase
6. Stone vault contact – Chuck
7. Upcoming meetings, recent minutes and the Regulations (By-laws) are still not posted on the website. Suggestions?
8. Other business