

## July, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Cemetery Trustees Meeting for July 11, 2015, 5:00PM

PRESENT: Dale Milne, Chuck Moore, Rick Corbett, Trustees; Frank Anderson, Sexton; George McCusker, Selectboard representative

The first order of business was to read and approve the June minutes.

The second agenda item, Frank's report, was postponed because Frank was detained, so George reported that the consensus at last night's Selectboard meeting was that the cemeteries look great, especially considering that the Highway Department has run far behind schedule this year because of the tough winter and employee absences.

The water barrels and the "NO GLASS" signage were addressed. The fire department has not cleaned one of the barrels, but as Chuck noted, the intermittent rain has helped by keeping the flowers watered naturally. Chuck also noted that no glass has been found recently, but Dale offered a computer-printed sign to be added under the plexiglass where the regulations are posted.

Next up was website progress. George emphasized that the town has invested in the site and hopes that department chairs will use it more in the future. He said that a 3-click system should be available for all information and most forms, such as purchasing a cemetery plot. He also mentioned that he cannot open Dale's documents unless they arrive in pdf form. He only uses his town .org e-mail for correspondence.

Dale will try to use hers for official correspondence.

Frank arrived at 5:45. He reported that he has done 4 burials in 6 weeks, including one during Old Home Day, and has worked approximately 18 hours/week to clean up the burial grounds. Except for Fowlertown, each outlying graveyard has been weed whipped at least twice. He will go to Fowlertown next week with Rick. They plan to mow Pleasant View together, tomorrow morning, July 12th.

Frank pointed out that Springfield charges \$300 for a full burial and \$75 for cremation, which appears to be lower than what nearby towns charge. A single plot is \$50, with a family plot at \$400. Frank pointed out that roads within Pleasant View are still washing out. He has mentioned that to Pete Abair. Frank has repaired two grave stones himself, and feels he can shim the Heath stone with some help. Frank thinks the mowing is under control, for now, but pointed out that it takes 6 hours to mow the lower section of Pleasant View. He plans to use Sullivan County inmates again in late October, this time for raking leaves.

Frank and Chuck reported that Stone Vault from Newport repaired twenty small stones, charging \$3,000, an average of \$150/stone. Their bill has not yet shown up on the town budget expenses. The subject of hours of labor and their cost came up. It was agreed that, for heavy work, Frank should have help.

Frank reported that the Historical Society would like to put up a monument, behind the Civil War monument, at the site of the original town meeting house.

Rick arrived at 6:15. He asked about the Fox Tree job. Frank said they had not yet come to remove four cedars growing inside the cemetery. He is not going to address the pine outside the wall. Rick said that

the Highway Dept backhoe has needed repairs, but it will be available for cemetery work in a week or so, for leveling, filling and moving rocks.

Rick will try to get the Fire Department to fill the water barrels.

Chuck noted that, fortunately, rain has come frequently enough to keep the flowers watered. Rick and George vouched for an Ariens mower that the town would like to sell, as a good value.

Before the next meeting, Frank will talk to Brian O'Day re: balusters, Rick will approach the Fire Department re: water barrels, Chuck will work on adjusting the flag light, Dale will research other towns' fees and will work on learning more about the town website and e-mail.

George suggested that Dale and Chuck work on wages and hours for the 2016 budget before October.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30, with the next meeting scheduled for 5:00, August 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale T. Milne

Addendum from Charlie Hafner, New London Cemetery Commission & Nola Aldrich, Wilmot Cemetery Commission:

Charlie: The cost of a single grave space in New London is \$300. It is 3.5' x 11' and either 1 traditional burial or up to six cremated remains are allowed in each. The price includes perpetual care of the grounds, there are no further maintenance fees over the years. Our maintenance is done by the highway department.

Opening fees are \$400/weekdays & Sat. – \$500 Sundays & Holidays for a full burial and \$100/ weekdays & Sat. – \$150 Sunday & Holidays for urns.

There again, our highway dept. does the digging, so it is a little cheaper than having an independent contractor do it. Most of the independents get \$500 – \$600 for a full burial. Urns are about the same either way.

Nola Aldrich- 526-2942 (Wilmot):

Opening fees - \$350 (175/175) & \$75 - Full Lot - \$150

Sunapee – Jeff Trow – 763-5501

Sutton – Marni Thompson – 927-4441

Grantham – Warren Legacy – 863-1061

AGENDA for August 10, 2015 Meeting:

1. Review July meeting minutes (? Historical Society monument \$)
2. Frank Anderson - Progress Report, grass seed & balusters (Brian O'Day)
3. Chuck Moore – Stone Vault, flag light & water barrels
4. Rick – Fox Tree & Highway Dept
5. Dale – Comparable fees from nearby towns, painted sign & e-mail
6. Looking toward the 2016 budget

- a. Wages & hours: Dale & Chuck (divide labor & set time?)
- b. Materials & Equipment: Frank & Rick
- 7. Other Business