

Minutes of Cemetery Commission Meeting; June 14, 2016 @ 5:15

Pleasant View Cemetery

Present: Richard Petrin, George McCusker, Dale Milne, Commissioners; Frank Anderson, Caretaker; Tamara Butcher, Select board & Bryan O'Day

The first order of business was to orient new members to the cemetery's geography and to visit the sites of two recent burials of young people. Frank pointed out that large machines had dug up the earth and observed that a small backhoe might do less damage digging, so it was moved that we pre-approve the hire of a small backhoe for burials. Mrs Garlock had called Dale to express concern over the condition of Don's lot. We found that it was being eroded by water and sand from the gravel road next to it, and grass hasn't grown recently. Frank knew about the issue and has spoken to Pete Abair. Tamara will address this with the selectboard.

Bryan had intended to come to the meeting to determine which plot(s) belonged to his family. In the meantime, he found two hand-written cemetery deeds from the 1920's in his family's safe deposit box. The price of the lots at that time was \$1.00. We walked to their plot; Tamara will cc the notes and add them to the town records.

The May meeting minutes were approved.

Memorial Day's service was moving and meaningful with the excellent KRMS band, but the turnout was small. Sutton and New London were similarly poorly attended. The townspeople who attended enjoyed following the band to the Town Hall.

Frank addressed conditions at the various town cemeteries. Pleasant View's problems with the gravel (road & backhoe damage) will be taken to the select board. Messer Hill still needs 4 maples removed. All others, except Fowler Town, have been weed whipped & tidied. Frank said the Newport Stone Vault is due next week to straighten stones for our capital improvement for this year. Frank also reported that, when he has finished purchasing his clothing, there will be \$100 left unspent from that line item.

Tamara has begun her Excel digital project, with an alphabetical index taken from information in our 100yo record book.

Dale has begun researching markers for the unmarked graves we would like to mark. We decide that \$50 was too much for metal. The NH Chronicle story on the x-ray service that locates bones in unmarked graves came up. Everyone was interested doing in that, if the price were right. A suggestion that the Historical Commission might be interested in that information arose.

In other business, the new sign has been hung, but glass containers continue to be used, many from the funeral homes. The main wood sign by the flag is beginning to rot, and will need replacement soon. Perhaps the signmaker who did the rules notice can make a carved wood piece for us. Dale will investigate this. George wondered if the town could buy its employees hats with the name of the town on the crown. Frank said that, if he had one, he would wear it.

Adjourned, 6:15

Respectfully submitted,

Dale T Milne

