

Springfield, NH Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

June, 2014 Meeting of Springfield, NH Cemetery Trustees
June 10, 2014 @ Town Office Building
Present: Dale Milne, Charles Moore, Tim Hayes, Trustees
Frank Anderson, Sexton

The first order of business was to approve the May, 2014 meeting minutes.

The second order of business was to review the successful Memorial Day celebration. Frank shared a letter from the Post #40 American Legion acknowledging the \$750 donation in Frank's name given by the townspeople. The topic of who might replace him as the Master of Ceremonies was raised. Frank is hopeful that Kenny Butcher will do it with his help next year, and take on the future celebrations.

Donna Heath has contacted us to request that her grandparents' (Marian and Harland Heath) headstone be righted. Chuck had hoped that the Highway Department might be able to do it for them, but Frank said the job is too risky, since such a large stone could be damaged easily. The town cannot offer to do it. Frank pointed out that the state regulations specify that individual stones are family property, but that, given sufficient funds, the Trust Funds can be applied to the "care, preservation or embellishment of any lot and its appurtenances." (289:9 Use of Trust Funds) He pointed out that, in 2012 & 2013, we found that the town's trust fund account would cover little of such a project. He stated firmly, "The town can't do it." Dale will contact Donna Heath and let her know the two services we recommend: Gravestone Services of New England, which specializes in small, older stones, and Stone Vault in Newport, Tim's suggestion.

Tim had charge of a number of projects this month, all but one of which were completed. He reported that Mike Stringer was able to place the missing piece on the Philbrick monument, the trees that needed to come out had been removed (Frank point out that 2-3 more will be on the 2015 list), and that he and Frank chose a weed whipper at Awl & Awl that Frank is happy with (\$369). Tim will continue to look for a water tank in the 75-gallon range that costs under \$200. We have \$240 left in our "new equipment" budget line to cover that purchase.

Chuck's baluster project is not quite finished, but all agreed that it looks great. The tree at the section where the fence was laid has shifted the ground, making it difficult to reattach the pieces.

Because he is heading toward retirement, Frank brought an updated "Duties & Responsibilities" list containing our cemeteries and the duties he performs in each. He pointed out that of the eight in town, only Pleasant View, Messer Hill and Fowler

Town's burial grounds were originally set aside by the town as cemeteries. The other five were abandoned private burial grounds. After twenty years, such graveyards become town responsibility, even if they are landlocked by surrounding private property. Frank added that his new assistant is working well. He also noted that a couple of the old Pleasant View stones were toppled, probably due to wet ground.

Before that, Dale will contact Donna Heath, Tim will investigate the water tank, and Chuck will continue his baluster work. A longer-range goal will be to connect with the Historical Society for record sharing.

With no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

The next meeting will be held on July 8, 2014 at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale T. Milne

Agenda for July 8, 2014:

4:45 – Visit Pleasant View Cemetery to survey thunderstorm damage
5:00 – Business meeting at the Town Office Building

1. Review, approve draft of June minutes
2. Discuss damage and its repair
3. Budget so far this year
4. Water tank, Tim
5. Other business