

Agenda & Minutes

Springfield Cemetery Commission

April 8, 2014 @ 5:00

Town Office Building

Attending: Dale Milne, Chuck Moore & Tim Hayes, Commissioners; Leigh Callaway, Selectman & Frank Anderson, Sexton.

- **Approved November, 2013 minutes**
- **Reviewed 2014 budget, as approved by the voters;** including the line items as noted below.
- **Frank Anderson: 2014 plans & small lots:** Frank would like 3-4 trees removed, "Next to the wall, the big pine near Charellas' lot and small cedars". On line item #1-4195-139, Frank suggested starting at the bottom of the old cemetery and working up to repair and rebalance stones. He & Tim stated that the road ruts & damage, mainly in upper section, may not require the entire \$500 in line item 1-4195-136. Line item 1-4195-143, at \$600, refers to a new weed whacker. Frank would like one with a blade. Tim will look into that. Leigh stated that Awl & Awl gives the town a discount and good service, so we should stick with them. Tim also noted that the riding mower/tractor is cracked, and probably dangerous. Chuck recalled that the Highway Department had agreed to share theirs with us.
- **Leigh: Manpower/employment:** The question of using contracted labor for cemetery maintenance has been raised in town. Frank noted that we have 8 cemeteries in town, including Fowlertown's, accessed via North Wilmot, distant from the center of Springfield. Frank works there twice a year, but mows those closer to town as-needed. Tom noted that Sutton pays \$15,000 to its contractor and gets mowing every two weeks without the quality of care that we have. The group voted not to seek contracted maintenance.
- **Tim: Philbrick stone plans:** Tim said that it needs to be 60 degrees for this work to be completed, but hopes that, by mid-May, it can proceed.
- **Dale: purchase lots for Milnes from Tim/Frank:** Frank would like us to walk the cemetery to pick out lots in person, perhaps before the meeting next month.

- **Chuck: Balusters to be replaced on vandalized fence:** Chuck needs someone to come to his shop to help start the generator for charging his drill, but is otherwise set to replace the pieces. Tom noted that the Highway Department has a sturdy cordless drill.
- **Service plans:** Frank reported that the Memorial Day service plans are coming along well. The KRMS band is set and the service should start with a “big roar” of cannon fire at 10:00 on May 25. The group agreed that we would like to see other student groups involved with the celebration, as the Springfield kindergarteners did before KRSD absorbed them. Tim suggested 4-H or Scouts. Frank has booked the Unity county home for its inmates’ labor. Tim said they work hard, filling in holes, raking and moving stones. Frank said that Janet will request them for 3 days this year. Last year, they were treated to pizza, which went over well.
- **Tim: Equipment, security issues (above)**
- **Proof of lot ownership:** Frank reported that there is a form letter for family plots in the record book, which could be used to make lot ownership more official/formal. Dale will see to that project.
- **Other:** Chuck asked if the plots could carry physical markers to make finding them easier for owners. Frank thought that such tagging would make mowing unnecessarily difficult, so the map & tape measure is still our best way to locate plots without stones. Chuck will get an aerial photograph of our cemeteries at the airport in Leb. Most cemeteries have running water for plants, but our patrons have to go to the town hall for water. Chuck and Tim said that they will look into 125 gallon water tanks so that one can be placed near the shed. Frank thinks that as soon as the ground dries out, NE Gravestone Services can get started, so he suggested that Dale contact Kai for continued stone repair work.
- **Adjourned:** at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale T. Milne

