

Minutes

Cemetery Commission

May 3, 2010

Present: Richard Olson, Chair; A. Berg; M. Collins; G. Howe; T. Myers; S. Arango, Alt.

Guest: Billy Rogers, P.E.

The Chair called the meeting to Order at 2:06 pm

1. The Minutes of April 5 were approved as amended.
2. Expansion project: Billy Rogers showed his latest topographical layout, with elevations for our area of preference for expansion, while making suggestions for the most promising expansion area. Motion: Billy to return to our June meeting with a revised layout to show the office/garage. Tony's proposed grave sites, and suggested push-back on the prohibited area. Future action would include Commission application to MEMA for expansion.
3. Tony Lemme was not present to present his report.
4. Winthrop St. Cemetery: Tom to check with Tony about brush removal and wild cherry stump removal.
5. Cemetery Funds: Olson & Collins met with the Town Treasurer. Mark's opinion is that forensic accounting by the outside auditor is needed: for the Perpetual Care Trust Fund and the Sale of Lots Fund. Apparently illegal withdrawals were made from Trust Fund principal by Town Meetings, and there is no record of Sale of Lots receipts for approx. 7 years. An opinion is needed from Town Counsel. We are looking at approximately \$75, 000 between the Trust Fund and the Sale of Lots Fund. Motion: We vote to request the Town Manager request an opinion from Town Counsel, and request a formal forensic examination of the two accounts by our outside auditor. [5 o 0].
6. Deeds for Lots: The Chair is to discuss this with the Town Clerk.
7. Verbal request for a bench on an unused grave on a double lot. Some would like to make an offer for buy-back. We need a sketch, if this is to go further, and we need research for a buy-back policy.
8. The Chair had a conversation with Helen Valentine. In the process he learned that she was doing volunteer work in the Hamilton & Gifford cemeteries under the COA Senior Program. While working – clearing grave markers – her car blocked what appeared to be a private road in the cemetery, and she reacted negatively to another car making a short-cut, and on complaint of the driver, was issued a citation.
 - a. Is the road in question private?
 - b. Is there adequate signage?
 - c. We need to be conscious of voluntary cemetery workers.
9. Date of next meeting: June 7, 2:00pm, in the Yellow room.
10. Election of Officers: Chair, R. Olson, Vice-Chair, G. Howe, Secretary: will continue in rotation.

Greg Howe, Secretary pro-tem