

TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting- March 20, 2007

Present: Jill Young  
Peter Martel  
Thomas Belcher

Guests: Robyn Manley  
Linda Osienski

Jill Young opened the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

The minutes of the February 13, 2007 meeting were read and approved as written.

The first order of business was a discussion on the need to have a recording secretary at each Cemetery Board meeting. It was noted that Peter Martel felt that unless there was a controversial issue, there was no need to spend money on an extra person to record the minutes of the meeting. Both Jill Young and Thom Belcher felt that it was in the best interest of the Board to employ an outside party to record the minutes. It was noted that there is not enough money in the budget for this expense and it was looked at as proper protocol. Another benefit to the Board having its own recording secretary is that the minutes of the meeting could be printed out without delay. It was agreed upon that the Cemetery Trustees would use a recording secretary for the next few months.

Jill Young presented a copy of The Bennington Bugle which is published by Peter Martel, and pointed out an article pertaining to the retaining wall at the cemetery, noting that the article should have explained more accurately the possible plans for financing the repairs that are needed. The article implies that the repairs will be an expense to the Town. Robyn Manley noted that the Selectmen have talked about different options such as a warrant article or a line item to pay for the repairs. There was also a question of if part of the interest from the trust funds could be used for the needed repairs. It was noted that the article should have mentioned that the dollar figure is not firm and at the time the work is to be done; the Town will put the job out for bid.

Peter Martel stated that he has not seen anything that proves that the Cemetery Trustees had any knowledge of the transfer of property to the Town. Jill stated that it was recorded and that Phil Traxler was aware of it.

The next order of business was to welcome Thom Belcher as a new member of the Cemetery Trustees as he was newly elected. It was noted the Thom have been sworn in earlier in the day.

At 6:15 p.m. the Trustees took a short break to show their appreciation to Robyn Manley for her service on the Board. The Trustees presented her with flowers and had cake and sparkling cider.

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When the Trustees reconvened at 6:30 p.m. they discussed a copy of a burial transit permit and a death certificate for Faith Allen that had been mailed to the Town Clerk's office. Jill Young noted that she would make phone calls to find out more about it as her burial site was not clear.

Jill noted that the next meeting in April would be a good time to begin reviewing the Cemetery Trustees rules and regulations to update them. Copies of the existing rules will be made and a copy will be given to Thom. Also on next month's agenda will be the beginning of a discussion of the price of cemetery lots in preparation for next year.

At this point, Jill asked Peter if he would be willing to do research on the Bryer lot that was given to the Cemetery Trustees. Peter agreed to research it to find if it was a practical and cost effective lot to use for burial sites. Thom and Peter will walk the lot to get familiar with it. It was noted that it may be possible to cut and sell some of the timber on the lot as part of the work to be done to get it ready for use.

At this time Peter Martel stated that he has plans to resign from the Cemetery Trustees. He does not feel that he has the time to put into it but is willing to stay until a replacement can be found. Robyn stated that she is not interested in the position. Linda Osienski noted that she would think about it and get back to the Board.

There being no other business, the Trustees adjourned their meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debra Belcher  
Recording Secretary