

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
CEMETERY TRUSTEES

Minutes of the Meeting- June 11, 2007

Present: Jill Young
 Thomas Belcher
 Barry White

Jill Young called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The minutes of the May 8, 2007 meeting were read and approved as written.

It was noted that Jill had talked to Mr. Palance and he would not be attending the meeting as it was not felt that the town of Bennington was in the position of hiring him to map the cemetery lots at this time. Thom suggested that a mapping project might be a good Eagle Scout project. Jill suggested that Thom might also approach the Boy Scout Troop about taking the flags off of the graves in November as a community service project.

Jill reminded Thom and Barry that the cemetery class given by the State was scheduled for the following Tuesday, June 19, 2007 starting at 8:00 a.m. Both Thom and Barry confirmed that they would attend the class as would Jill.

In new business, Jill reported that Ruth Swett had passed away and her husband, Fred would like a large monument placed on the lot facing the road. This would be opposite from the placement of the other stones in the cemetery. Though there is nothing in the cemetery rules saying that the stone could not face the road, it was felt that it should conform to the surrounding stones. It was also noted that a stone that did not conform with the other stones in the row could make maintenance difficult. All were in agreement that the stone should not be placed in an un-uniform manner.

Jill reported on a problem at Sunnyside Cemetery in reference to a funeral by Jellison's Funeral Home. It was reported that the daughter of the deceased was very upset about the condition of her mother's grave. The rain had washed away the earth and exposed a corner of the vault. At this time the problem had not been corrected. Jill noted that Matt Brissette would be fixing it. It was suggested that a member of the Cemetery Trustees be on hand during the preliminary work when a burial is to be done at Sunnyside Cemetery to avoid future problems. Barry inquired about the number of vacant graves at Sunnyside Cemetery. Jill reported that it is not known since the deeds had been stolen years ago.

Jill suggested that Barry begin work on the research of Trust Funds. It was noted that the Cemetery Trustees have not been receiving the correct amount of money from the sale of cemetery lots. The current breakdown is 1/3 to the Cemetery and 2/3 to the Trustees of the Trust Funds. This should be 1/2 to each committee. It was noted that the cemetery trustees can not go back to past payments to collect funds but this should be corrected for the future.

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Barry White reported on the Bryer property. He noted that he had walked the lot and placed markers on the pins to make them easier to locate. Barry reported that the lot has wetlands in the center and is very sloping. There is the possibility of useable land in the front and back of the lot but it could be very costly to use. At present the land appears to be used for hunting.

Since the property was deeded to the Town for the use of a cemetery, and it appears to be unusable for that purpose, there was a question about how the Town could use this land. It was noted that there is a process of getting permission to use the land involving the probate court.

It was noted that the town owns other land that might be used for a cemetery. The Town owns several acres behind Evergreen Cemetery. Barry pointed out the area on a topographical map showing that the slope of the land looked to be workable. Barry noted that he could check this land.

Jill noted that Jim Cleary had purchased two cemetery lots. There has also been an inquiry from Ed and Robin Hyland as to whether they could use the lot that they own in Evergreen Cemetery to bury a handicapped person that had lived in their household. The person was not in their family but lived with them. The Trustees noted that there was no reason that the Hylands could not be allowed to use their lot for this purpose. Ed Hyland also had asked if he would be allowed to place the cremains. This also would be allowed.

It was noted that the rules and regulations are in need of updating. The Trustees should be reading over the rules and making notes as to possible changes that might be needed. There is a need for documentation to be in place concerning the burial of a person who has no money.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debra Belcher
Recording Secretary