

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
CEMETERY TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Meeting- April 12, 2016
Draft

Present Karen Bartlett, Chairman
 Joshua Segal
 Melissa Clark

Guests Jill Young
 John Giffin
 Colleen Giffin

Chairman Bartlett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

New Cemetery Trustee, Melissa Clark was sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Jill Young was asked to speak about the water issue at Sunnyside Cemetery. It had been reported that the construction for the Downtown Enhancement Project had broken ground within the 25 foot setback of the cemetery. This could possibly be a violation of RSA 289:3. Jill has spoken to the Road Agent noting that he should have informed the Cemetery Trustees. Jill recommended that the Trustees contact Terry Knowles. It was noted that the pillars at the gate have been moved and the gate no longer opens and closes. The fence-line has moved and the snow has caused damage over the years. It was also noted that the Cemetery Trustees made a big deal about RSA 289:3 when Mr. Schnare was doing his project on Bible Hill Road. As the work being done by the Town is an essential need, the Trustees gave an informal approval noting that if human remains were to be found, the Town would be responsible. Chairman Bartlett will draft a response for the Selectmen which will be reviewed by the Trustees in a prompt manor so that she may forward it to the Selectmen without delay.

In other business, Jill recommended that the Trustees ask Terry Knowles for advice on whether the fence should be replaced or repaired. If the fence were to be replaced, the Trustees could remove it from the Eaton Avenue side, grade the area, seed, and replace the fence. Chairman Bartlett presented a quote from John Giffin for the replacement of the Bible Hill Road side of the cemetery fence. Mr. and Mrs. Giffin spoke to the Trustees about possible ways of replacing the fence that would help to reduce the cost while preserving the integrity of the fence. It may be possible to save the spires that are on the top of each fence piece to reuse. Though it may be possible to save the gates, it might be more cost effective to replace them. Mrs. Giffin suggested saving the gate parts on the Eaton Avenue side that have intricate work and are older. It was suggested that supports would not be needed if the posts were made a bit larger. There are almost

90 sections of fence in total. The north side of the fence is in better shape than the rest of the fence. The Trustees agreed to meet at Sunnyside Cemetery at 6:30 p.m. for their next Trustees' meeting to do a site walk of the fence. Mr. Giffin will attend also. The Trustees will research possible grants to help with this project. There is some money available in the Catholic Charitable Fund that may be used.

Jill Young met with Steve Carson of Woodbury Funeral Home in Hillsborough to show him the location of the Coffin burial site. Jill has agreed to help the Trustees as they are not always available during the day. A copy of the Evergreen Cemetery map will be given to Jill as she will be assisting the Trustees with Steve Carson who digs the grave sites.

Chairman Bartlett is doing research for an upcoming burial. A copy of the individual's deed will need to be seen.

Joshua noted that he would like to do repairs on the butler lot in Sunnyside Cemetery. This is a Civil War soldier and the estimate to do the repairs needed is around \$4,000.

The Trustees reviewed the estimate for mowing that was received from Mr. Gagnon. An ad was placed in the local paper but no more bids were received. Joshua made a motion to accept the bid from Mr. Gagnon. Karen seconded the motion and all were in favor. The Trustees agreed to pay Mr. Gagnon half now and the other half in the fall. The approval for the contract was signed and submitted for payment. Joshua will call Mr. Gagnon on Wednesday to let him know that the contract was approved.

Chairman Bartlett reminded the Trustees that they would meet at Sunnyside Cemetery next month and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher
Cemetery Trustee Recording Secretary