

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

Present        Karen Bartlett, Chairman  
                  Joshua Segal  
                  Melissa Clark

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The minutes of the June 14, 2016 were reviewed and accepted as written.

Karen gave an update on the tree problem in Sunnyside Cemetery. It was noted that the branches are still all over the ground and possibly more have fallen. Karen has spoken to the Administrator who will update Selectman Cleary. The Cemetery Trustees have been invited to meet with the Selectmen. Both Karen and Administrator French have looked at the tree and noted that equipment will be needed. They also looked at other trees in the cemetery and noted that there is a tree on the Bible Hill Road side of the cemetery that has dead branches overhanging the wall.

Joshua has completed the guide book for Evergreen Cemetery. The Trustees will make a copy for their use as a working copy.

Joshua noted that the one of the Clough lots that were sold was actually a four person lot. The maps need to be updated to reflect all lot sizes.

The Trustees received a complaint about the terrible condition of the entry road at Evergreen Cemetery. Karen has viewed the area and noted that there is a section where a tree root has gone under the road and then rotted. The Trustees will keep an eye on it at this time.

The Trustees signed a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Deeds. A copy will be retained by the Cemetery Trustees and one given to the Selectmen.

The Trustees discussed the Sunnyside Cemetery fence. Joshua noted that he is still working on funding. Karen suggested that the Trustees write a letter to Mr. Giffin noting that the Trustees are still interested in having the work done, but will not be able to begin the work this year. The letter will ask for an explanation of the proposed work as well as a quote. The Cemetery Trustees will possibly submit a warrant article for the fence work. It was also suggested that the Trustees make it known to the public that they are raising funds for the fence work.

The Cemetery Trustees met with the Board of Selectmen at 7:00 p.m. Selectman Cleary stated that he has looked at the tree in Sunnyside Cemetery and it will require equipment such as a crane. As this is an old cemetery on a steep hill, the needed equipment cannot be brought into the cemetery. Selectman Cleary will obtain quotes for the work. It was suggested that it may be possible to remove stones, remove the tree, and then replace the stones instead of trying to get a crane close enough for the work. This would be a very expensive process. The Selectmen are not meeting next week, but Selectman Cleary will contact Karen when he has information.

The Cemetery Trustees asked the Selectmen about any possible funds that could be used for the fence project at Sunnyside Cemetery. The Selectmen noted that the Trustees will need to write a warrant article for the funds. The Trustees also asked the Selectmen about the possibility of a gift to thank Jill Young for her many years of service to the Town. The Trustees suggested a cemetery lot or a reduced rate for a cemetery lot. Selectman Cleary noted that it is not appropriate for the Town to give such a gift and it would cause problems down the road. The Selectmen will get back to the Cemetery Trustees about this.

As there was no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher  
Cemetery Trustee Recording Secretary