

CEMETERY COMMISSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2016  
6:00 PM

The meeting was brought to order at 6:05 pm with the following members present: Forrest Hicks, Bob Scott, Neal Houston and Priscilla Margola. Ray Eilers was absent.

The minutes of September 8<sup>th</sup> were read & accepted.

Discussion commenced concerning the lack of a book or maps showing the four cemeteries and the layout of the graves. Specifically the names on the graves and where each family member lot was. There is supposed to be a Master book in the Town Clerk's office; also, Sexton Tom Maroni has an up to date book. The members expressed a desire to have copies of this book, so that when they get an inquiry regarding a family whereabouts, they can accurately describe where and in what cemetery the family is. The Sexton needs to make maps available for all the members.

In the Village Cemetery, extra land which was purchased some years ago, needs a way to access it. The members will do a walking tour to scout out a way to reach it so that large vehicles such as an excavator can be brought in. On the right side of the cemetery, as you drive up the road from the main entrance there is evidence of a possible way that could be widened to accommodate such vehicles. Trees have been marked with red paint and Danny Birch has offered to clear those trees and brush to more readily make this area accessible for the future expansion. This he would do without charge if he could have the wood. It was agreed by the members present; Bob Scott, Neal Houston, Priscilla Margola and Forrest Hicks to vote on the tree removal at the November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting.

Also discussed was the role of the Long Range Cemetery Commissioners who were appointed to specifically discuss long range plans. Under no circumstances is there to be a tree cut, not dirt removed nor grave dug without the consent of Cemetery Commissioners who were elected by the Town. The Long Range commissioners will supply to the Cemetery Commissioners a spreadsheet.

detailing out the plan process and the efforts to further expand the Village and South Hill Cemeteries.

Our cemeteries were visited by Patrick Healy, Director of the Green Mountain Cemetery in Montpelier. Mr. Healey is also President of the Vermont Cemetery Association. He had heard about our efforts to restore and clean the older stones in all four cemeteries and was quite impressed with the work performed by Tom Maroni and Joel Hicks.

Belleville Monuments gave a \$50.00 donation to Readsboro for our Cemeteries.

We need to start our Budget requirements for the coming fiscal year July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. There is a time limit set by the Selectboard of December 10<sup>th</sup> to have our requests in. We will be requesting money for our operating budget which covers lawn mowing and maintenance, our Capital fund which covers ongoing stone restorations and a separate fund for the future purchase of Village gates. There was a suggestion to include a set amount into the Capital Fund but it was felt that a separate fund specifically for the gates was more desirable. This we will pursue. Forrest will get an updated estimate of what gates would cost, one for the main entrance and one for the back entrance.

Hearing no further business, our next meeting will be November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Village Office at 6:00pm. A Motion to adjourn at 7:10pm was made by Neal and seconded by Bob, so voted.

Priscilla Margola, Secretary

Signed and dated: October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016