

Cemetery Trustees

February 6, 2012

Condition of Cemeteries

Mary noted that the majority of the American flags were broken in the Village Cemetery. She reminded the Trustees of their recent policy that would call for the removal of broken American flags and proper disposition.

Budget

Mary noted that the town's auditor had requested that the Trustees not include the cleaning and preservation of gravestones in their budget because the money comes directly from a trust.

Mary noted that at the request of the Selectmen, she had sent requests for proposals for the cemetery mowings to five local vendors. Only one proposal was received from Ganio Land Management. Their quote was \$6575.00. The Trustees expressed their concern that to repeatedly ask vendors to make proposals might irritate them. Mary noted that she approached different vendors from the last time to request a bid on the mowings. The Trustees noted that they will acknowledge the request by the selectmen to request RFPs for the mowings for 2013.

Mary noted that she had submitted the invoice for grass seed too late and the expense will become an expenditure against the 2012 budget.

Patriotic Committee – American Flags

Mary inquired whether the Trustees were interested in performing the duties of the Patriotic Committee. This would include being responsible for the replacement of tattered American flags as well as the Memorial Day Ceremonies. The Trustees declined the opportunity. She continued that she had discussed the recent policy about the removal of tattered flags with Jim Strickland who had no problem with the policy, but wanted to make certain that he had sufficient flags to replace any tattered ones. Mary suggested that the next time American flags are ordered, that the sticks be shorter because they typically break off.

New Hampshire Cemetery Association

Mary indicated that the NHCA was a good resource for the trustees and she would recommend that their membership be renewed. A motion by Roxanne to renew the membership was adopted unanimously.

Monument

Mary stated that Selectmen Mark Lanier requested that the Mehabital Lewis monument be moved. It is presently leaning up against the wall in the town office. It was felt that the leaning monument could pose a safety concern. Mary indicated that she would speak with Tony Davis.

Mary reported on the history of the George E. Reed trust. George E. Reed purchased a cemetery plot and he and his wife were buried there. In the early 1930s Cora and Ellen Reed, the relatives of George Reed removed George and Emma and transferred their remains to Woodland Cemetery in Keene. They obtained a Superior Court judgment to remove their cemetery trust from Marlow in order to establish a perpetual care in Keene. The court decision did not include the \$200.00 perpetual care trust established by George Reed, which had increased in value to \$3470.00. Mary indicated that the Trustees should consider whether to relinquish this remaining trust. The actual cemetery plot has been purchased. She added she was uncertain what the intent of George E. Reed was when he established the trust and she didn't know what the process would be to turn the trust over to the City of Keene. The Trustees discussed whether they had any responsibility to do anything with the trust, but acknowledged that the Attorney General's Charitable Trust Division may expect that the Trustees do something now that they've become aware of the situation. Patty noted that the Trustees may want to consider doing a cy pres to combine all of the incidental trusts and redirect their purpose.

At 5:25 PM the meeting concluded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Little
Secretary