

Town of Springfield – Cemetery Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Selectmen's Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor

Thursday, April 15, 2015

Commissioners present: Gerald Patch, John Swanson, Ronald Griffin, Scott Page and Barbara A. Courchesne, Ex-Officio.

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 PM by Chair, Scott Page

**Additions to the Agenda:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** John Swanson moved to approve Public Hearing Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 2, 2014, Gerald Patch seconded. No Discussion. Motion passed. Gerald Patch moved to approve Minutes dated November 4, 2014, Ronald Griffin seconded. No Discussion. Motion passed.

**Cemetery Update on Land Purchase:** Discussion ensued regarding cemetery budget funds and how to move forward with the Assembly of God and the Select Board. Copy of an email from Jeff Strong including 14/15yr budget information was given to each Commissioner. Scott mentioned that Charlie Blish from Assembly of God needs assurance that the Select Board is committed to moving forward. The Russian Church backed out of a similar situation in the past and Assembly is now a little shy. They also have a lot going on and are in the process of searching for a new pastor. Although initially the Commission was told that the land would be donated at no cost, as long as the Town paid for legal and past survey expenses and new survey expenses for the parcel being conveyed, there may now be some members on the Assembly's board who want to push for money. Past survey expenses are estimated at \$1,800.00. Discussion revolved around a meeting of joint representatives to work out some details before going to respective full boards. It's possible the right of way could be worked out to benefit each party. Tiering the land is another expense. Scott stated that there is potential for in excess of 250 graves and it would benefit the town to lay out a separate cremation section or work on details for urn burials. Currently there isn't a restriction on how many urns can be put into a site. An urn garden is a way to maximize use of land. Ron suggested the rusty flag pole could be removed for space. Scott mentioned that the parcel along the fence could be re-worked and the fence would change position and the right-of-way re-worked to the church's property. Members discussed someone from the board speaking to the selectmen about authority to negotiate with the church. Scott said, as long as there was a backup in case he was tied up with work, he would speak at a select board meeting.

**Motion:** John Swanson moved to authorize Scott Page, with Gerald Patch as backup, to request authority from the Select Board to negotiate with the Assembly of God. No Discussion. Motion passed.

Ron wants to know when Public Works is doing clean up in the cemeteries. He is available to prop up flags and help clean up. Gerry mentioned that the Boy Scouts are putting out flags this year.

Scott referred to Jeff Strong/s email regarding the cemetery's line item in the Public Works budget. Jeff states that even though there are some funds in the cemetery line item, Public Works is over

budget due to winter maintenance and use of funds needs to be discussed with the Town Manager. Scott believes that the current line item should be enough. It was suggested that the Chair have a conversation with the Town Manager prior to a Select Board meeting. Hopefully, Chris Paton's additional surveying would be less than what has already been done at \$1,800.00. There needs to be road design in the future. In conclusion, the Board agreed that Scott would meet with Charlie Blish to see where things stand, present to the Select Board on May 26<sup>th</sup>. By May 26<sup>th</sup> Scott hopes to have a letter of intent from Charlie. The Commission will meet on May 20<sup>th</sup> and submit materials for Selectmen's Agenda on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Future Agenda Items:**

Summer Hill Fountain

Geocaching request of Geoff Adnams

Damage and Repairs

Friends of the Cemetery

**Adjournment:** At 6:10 p.m. Scott page motioned to adjourn, Ronald Griffin seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Barbara A. Courchesne  
Cemetery Commissioner, Ex-Officio

**Next Meeting will be Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. in the Selectmen's Meeting Hall**