

Town of Springfield – Cemetery Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Selectmen's Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Commissioners present: Gerald Patch, John Swanson, Hugh Putnam, Ron Griffin and Barbara A. Courchesne, Ex-Officio.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Vice-Chair, Gerald Patch.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: John Swanson **Moved** and Hugh Putnam seconded to approve Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2015. No Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Update:

- **Land Purchase:** Gerry relayed that Scott has not been able to re-connect with Charlie Blish. Now that a new pastor is in place at the Church, Scott will send a letter of intent to purchase to both Charlie and the new pastor. Hugh is trying to reconnect with Don Gurney, Sr regarding an offer he made to gift to the town approximately 2 to 3 acres of land, which abuts the cemetery, with a reservation of lots for his family.

Summer Hill Fountain: Gerry confirmed with former Public Works Supervisor, John Tarbell that the fountain was put in the Summer Hill Cemetery by the town in the late 1960s. According to Public Works Director, Jeff Strong the town doesn't have proper equipment to excavate the fountain while minimizing damage to the surrounding area and headstones. A contractor should be contacted regarding the breaking up of the concrete and its removal. Gerry is contacting the town manager to see if getting contractor quotes requires select board approval. Ron shared a neighbor's idea to fill the fountain with dirt and have the Garden Club plant flowers as an alternative to the current plan to remove the fountain and use the space for a cremation garden. Hugh cannot find anything on record about the history of the fountain.

Damage and Repairs: Gerry has gotten calls from people concerned about needed repairs to headstones and dried/dead grass. Oakland is sand and rock and the town doesn't have money to import soil and re-seed. Ron reported that he believes there is new vandalism in Pine Grove of about 4 stones that were deliberately pushed over in a possible attempt to steal metal pipe. He will make a report to the police and check with cemeteries in other towns to see if they are experiencing the same type of vandalism. The Commissioners will each be checking other Springfield cemeteries for this type of vandalism. Hugh has invited Julia Lloyd Wright to speak at the next meeting, to be held at the Summer Hill Cemetery by the tomb, about minor stone repairs that can be done by volunteers. Oakland's tomb that is currently in use, is in need of repairs as well as the vault at Summer Hill that is no longer used.

Future Agenda Items:

Speaker Julia Lloyd Wright

Adjournment: John Swanson **Moved** to adjourn, Hugh Putnam seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara A. Courchesne
Cemetery Commissioner, Ex-Officio

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at Summer Hill Cemetery