

Town of Springfield – Cemetery Commissioners

Minutes

Selectmen's Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

Commissioners present: Hugh Putnam, Gerald Patch, Chairman Scott Page and Barbara A. Courchesne, Ex-Officio.

Called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda: Hugh requested discussion regarding section signs in the cemeteries be added as item 3a.

Public Comment: None

Section Signs: Hugh discussed the need for section signs in Oakland, Summer Hill and Pine Grove. There have been several complaints about the lack of signage and the difficulty in finding stones. Scott will discuss the creation of signage with Steve Knapp and Jeff Strong at Public Works.

Minutes: Hugh motioned and Jerry seconded to accept as written minutes from August and October (September meeting was cancelled). All in favor.

Lockwood/Day Cemetery: Hugh reported on his research back to 1890. He finds there is no reference to who owns the lot. Mr. Riott, the current owner, believes the town owns the lot but doesn't know for sure. At this time, he doesn't mind the town caring for the cemetery or visitors to the cemetery. He has no objections to burials. He wants to be buried there himself. Scott suggested that only cremations be allowed and only for the current owner, adjacent land owners and descendants of Day and Lockwood. Kevin Day and Sally Lockwood Day are interested in a cremation burial. This cemetery is listed as "in active" in funeral/cemetery directories. Barbara suggested a title search/legal opinion to determine certainty of lot ownership. The cemetery is within the boundaries of the property owned by Mr. Riott who acts like the town has a right-of-way. Hugh will continue his research and discussion will continue.

Summer Hill: Steve and Jeremy at Public Works have straightened 50 plus stones and put rock back in and packed foundations to prevent breakage from snow and ice. In addition to this will make mowing easier.

Fall Clean Up/End of Season Summary: Steve and Jeremy at Public Works are working on fall clean up. Jerry questioned if Memorial Park falls under cemetery care and suggested a sign for no dogs. Scott will bring this sign up with Steve Knapp and Jeff Strong. Scott reported that there have been vehicle tracks in the Oakland and Catholic cemeteries and the police have been notified and are aware of deer jacking going on in that area. The police will continue to watch.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned for the winter season at 5:35 p.m. and will resume its meeting schedule after Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara A. Courchesne*

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Cemetery Commissioner, Ex-Officio