

## Cemetery Trustee Meeting

April 19, 2022

The Cemetery Trustees meeting opened at 10:00 am in the Clerk's Office at City Hall.

Present: Kristia Davis, Edward Bryant, Albert Morrisette, and Shelli Fortin (bookkeeper)

Absent: None

Public: Corey Riendeau, Northern NH Correctional Facility; Spencer Croteau, Berlin Public Works

### 1. Cemetery Signs

Shelli Fortin shared a picture of a granite post that the Trustees may consider for a sign at the City Cemeteries. It was suggested that two posts be used with a sign between the posts set facing the roadway. Spencer Croteau was in attendance to discuss options and advised that public works could make the signs with black metal. Shelli Fortin will get pricing from White Mountain Lumber and Swenson's for the posts. It was decided that signs should be placed at the New City Cemetery, Russian City Cemetery, and Hillside City Cemetery.

### 2. Cemetery Mowing

Corey Riendeau was in attendance to discuss the possibility of a work crew from the State Prison to assist with cemetery maintenance this year. Warden Riendeau advised that the prison is currently short on staff, but that he has a part-time employee who could supervise a work crew 2-3 days a week. They could start on May 8, 2022. The City will need to designate a contact person and a location to meet each day. There is no cost for the help provided. Shelli Fortin will be in contact with Warden Riendeau with the information for a contact person.

### 3. Cremains Benches

The Trustees discussed the issue of cremains benches. Concerns were brought up about vandalism and the possible opening of the bench. The Catholic cemeteries have allowed them in the past, but are not allowing them anymore. Gorham does not allow benches of any kind. Northumberland does allow them. A copy of the Cemetery Rules for both Gorham and Northumberland was provided to the Trustees for review.

**On a motion by Albert Morrisette, seconded by Ed Bryant, the Trustees voted unanimously to prohibit cremains benches in the City Cemeteries.**

### 4. Maximum Size of Monuments

The Trustees agreed that a maximum size did not need to be specified, as the Rules and Regulations state that the Cemetery Trustees already have the authority to reject any plan or design that is unsuited to the lot.

### 5. Agreement with Parish for Perpetual Care

Shelli Fortin advised that the attorney for the Catholic Church is still working on paperwork for the transfer of perpetual care funds.

#### 6. Report of Trust and Capital Reserve Funds

Albert Morrisette distributed a Report of the Cemetery Trust Fund. The current balance of all accounts is \$381,514.58. Mr. Morrisette reported that the interest for the NHPDIP did increase, but is still not where it should be for the amount of money invested. Mr. Morrisette will look into other options for the Trustees to consider.

#### 7. Other

Ed Bryant mentioned the problem with gravel washing down from the Cemetery on Hillside Avenue. Most of the gravel is coming from the Catholic Cemetery. Mr. Bryant will speak with Father Kyle about the issue.

Michel Ross advised that the zero-turn mower currently being used in the Cemeteries does damage to the sod and some of the monuments, which requires repair. The Cemetery Trustees approved the purchase of two push mowers.

#### 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

There being no further business before the Cemetery Trustees at this time, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:51 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin, Bookkeeper