

Cemetery Trustee Meeting

August 10, 2022

The Cemetery Trustees meeting opened at 1:00 pm in the Clerk's Office at City Hall.

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

Absent: None

Public: Laura Jackson

1. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Albert Morrissette, seconded by Kristia Davis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of April 19, 2022, July 8, 2021, December 2, 2020, July 29, 2020, and November 29, 2018.

2. Cemetery Mowing

Shelli Fortin advised that the prison has not been available to help as they thought they would, as they do not have the manpower. Frank Laroche has been working 24 hours a week, and mowing by hand. Mark Lapointe advised he does a really good job, but that they have had to send extra people to help since it is too much for one person. It was decided that two 24-hour positions should be filled next year to keep up with the mowing.

3. Natural Burials

Laura Jackson was present to ask if the City would be interested in offering natural burials. Ms. Brown advised that it is a growing green movement, and the nearest cemetery offering natural burials is in Maine. Edward Bryant advised that maintenance is an issue with natural burials from a cemetery standpoint, due to settling. Most natural burials are offered in a forested area, which the City does not have available for cemetery land at this time. Cemetery space is an issue, as natural burials would have to be in a separate area. It would also be problematic in winter, as natural burials have to be done quickly. Ms. Jackson asked that the Cemetery Trustees remain open to this idea to discuss in the future. Shelli Fortin will do some research on the process and if there are any places in NH that currently offer this service.

4. Update on Perpetual Care Agreement with St. Anne's Church

Shelli Fortin reached out to the church office again this week, and was advised that Dave Gabert has been working on it in between other things. He suggested that if our legal team wants to draft an agreement, it may go more quickly. Shelli Fortin did contact the City Attorney, who will take a look at it next week.

5. Wording of Deeds

Bryant Funeral Homes had brought to our attention that the wording of our deed conveys the plot of land, and this has been problematic for those applying for assistance from Medicaid, as they are counting it as an asset. It was suggested that the wording be changed to state they are purchasing the right to inter in the lot. Shelli Fortin will check with the City Manager, and City Attorney if needed, to

see if the wording can be changed. The Catholic Church currently words their deed this way, and a sample was provided.

6. Cemetery Signs

The cost for granite posts for the signs was too expensive. Edward Bryant suggested a 4x4 pressure treated post with a vinyl sleeve and cap for the sign. Shelli Fortin with talk with Spencer Croteau to see if this would be able to be done by public works.

7. Letter from Mr. Ben Evans

Albert Morrissette received a letter from Ben Evans, great-grandson of Benjamin and Elsie Evans. He was recently in town, as his grandmother passed away, and noticed that the stone gate posts at the entrance to the Beth Israel Cemetery need repair. Mr. Evans offered to donate the funds to complete the repairs. Edward Bryant will contact a mason, either Al Peabody or John Croteau, to see if they would be available to do the work.

8. Report of Trust and Capital Reserve Funds

Albert Morrissette distributed a Report of the Cemetery Trust Fund. The current balance of all accounts is \$377,392.20. Mr. Morrissette reported that the interest for the NHPDIP is increasing. Mr. Morrissette advised that Edward Jones is offering CD's with a higher interest rate and will look into investing some money there to increase the return on the trust fund. Mr. Morrissette advised expenses for the year were \$5,501.90, which is reimbursed to the City. He will be transferring \$1,000 to the checking account to cover this. Edward Bryant and Kristia Davis signed the check for the expenses, as well as the MS-9.

7. Other

Ed Bryant mentioned that Mike Ross should be notified when lots are sold in the Hillside Cemetery, as a lot was sold in Range 4, which was not pinned yet. Shelli Fortin will try to keep him updated on any sales.

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 2:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin, Bookkeeper