

Cemetery Trustee Meeting

October 3, 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: None

1. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Kristia Davis, seconded by Albert Morrissette, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 10, 2022 as presented.

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

The Trustees were given a copy of the draft agreement from Attorney Chris Boldt for the transfer of perpetual care funds to the church.

On a motion by Albert Morrissette, seconded by Kristia Davis, the Trustees voted unanimously to approve the agreement and to move forward in the process.

The agreement will be sent to the Church for their review, and to City Council before sending to the NH Office of the Attorney General, Charitable Trusts Division for their approval.

3. Natural Burials

The Trustees noted that there are too many other maintenance issues to consider natural burials at this time. Shelli Fortin shared some information on other cemeteries in NH that offer this service, and will send a letter to Ms. Jackson including these options.

4. Wording of Deeds

The Trustees discussed the current wording on deeds, and agreed to remove the rules in the center and instead list that they must abide by the cemetery rules and regulations, along with noting that they are purchasing the right to be interred in the cemetery but the land remains the property of the City of Berlin. Shelli Fortin will type a new deed to be approved at the next meeting.

5. Beth Israel Cemetery Repair

Ed Bryant advised he spoke with John Croteau in reference to the repair, and he was supposed to get back to him with a quote, but he has not. Shelli Fortin will attempt to call Al Peabody to see if he would be available.

6. Cemetery Signs

Shelli Fortin advised that she did put in a work order for signs, but has not heard from Public Works yet.

7. Other

Ed Bryant noted that there are bushes on a lot in the New City Cemetery that are overgrown. The Cemetery Rules do state that the trustees can have them removed when they become a problem. Ed Bryant will get the name on the lot, and we will attempt to contact the owner before removing them.

Albert Morrissette advised that he received a note in reference to the MS9, and was told he cannot show a negative income. He will need \$426.32 to cover the amount they are in the negative. It was suggested that the 50/50 agreement of splitting maintenance costs with the City each year be reviewed, as the trust funds are not earning enough interest to cover the expenses. Mr. Morrissette advised that the NHPDIP has increased the interest rate to 2.5%. A meeting will be scheduled with the City Manager to discuss the cemetery budget and reimbursement of expenses.

Ed Bryant noted that Mike Ross has been doing some work in the Beth Israel Cemetery and it looks good.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled in January.

On a motion by Albert Morrissette, seconded by Kristia Davis, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin, Bookkeeper