

Cemetery Commission Minutes from Sept. 21, 2020

The Plainfield Cemetery Commission met at the Bisson Cemetery on Sept. 21. All commission members were present. OLD BUSINESS: Kenley Freeman reported on the status of the damaged gate at Plainmont Cemetery and the recent restitution court hearing. He reported the judge essentially dismissed the case, and therefore the commission will not receive compensation to help defray the cost of replacing or repairing the gate. No further action on this matter was taken today.

Green Burials. The Cemetery Commission took up the issue of green burials as Bisson Cemetery had been previously designated by the commission as the site for such interments. Some town residents attending this meeting asked questions and offered input about green burials. One question was could couples reserve adjoining plots. They expressed sentiment that if they could not be guaranteed side by side interment they would not pursue green burial here. The commission acknowledged this subject had not been anticipated and agreed to come back with a definitive policy. It is estimated that a green burial will cost \$2,200, which includes purchase of plot and sexton's labor. Residents in attendance indicated a positive view of green burials. The commission voted unanimously to announce to the community that green burials at Bisson Cemetery will be offered beginning immediately.

Other Business: Righting and or stabilizing leaning or already toppled grave stones, especially very large and heavy ones, was discussed. A large stone in the Center Cemetery (Bartlett?) that had toppled had recently been righted. Rocky pointed out there are currently at least nine additional monuments in need of righting in the Village Cemetery. He received estimates ranging from \$250 to \$500 to right various stones there. The costs were discussed and the commission approved spending \$1400 to right four stones in Village Cemetery. The commission then discussed the long term costs and ways to cover such expenses associated with continuing and future needs to repair grave stones in our town's cemeteries. It was suggested we confer with neighboring towns to get a sense of how they address this expensive issue.

TREE REMOVAL: The commission approved the Foxfire proposal (low bid) to remove one dead tree at the Bisson Cemetery.

The commission set the date for our next meeting for the third Wednesday of October, at 5:30 PM to be held at the East Hill Cemetery. The commission adjourned.

Submitted by Dave Spence.