

The Cemetery Commission for the Town of Plainfield met on Wednesday June 15, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the Plainfield Fire Station

Commissioners Present: Dave Spence, Greg Light, Karla Haas Moskowitz, and Ed Hutchinson

Also present was Dale Bartlet.

Minutes of the May 16 meeting were approved as proposed.

Old Business from the last meeting:

New signs for donated water from the Hardware store should be ready in a couple weeks, the sign-makers are on vacation. The new signs will be on metal and will be cheaper than the plastic signs.

All commissioners received the electronic copies of the policies.

Mr. Loso pruned the hydrangea that was blocking his family's plot. He did a beautiful job with it.

Greg reported that Barre Town has not been very successful selling places in the high density Cremains memorial. He suggested we try to pre-sell a good number of places before we spend money on an expensive monument for this purpose.

Green Burial options were discussed and investigation will continue. Before any decisions are made we will probably want public discussion, perhaps a paid presentation from an expert in the practice. Ed will make it possible for all commissioners to view the "Dying Green" video. Karla will look into state policy on the subject.

David reported that he has not spoken with Rich (after several attempts) about the water yet. We wonder how long the Hardware will be willing to supply water. Should we proceed with a well?

We are in agreement that we should dispose of the Truck and dump body, and should list the dump body separately. Karla will ask Linda if there are specific things we need to do to arrange a sale.

New business:

Joseph has asked about printing our policy manual for him to distribute to lot owners and potential buyers. We agreed to have 50 copies printed. Greg will get some prices and arrange for printing of fifty copies.

We decided to take a tour of the Village cemetery after the regular meeting to view the broken and tipped-over monuments, sink holes, and the broken fence .

Commissioners wondered about the sexton's responsibility regarding these issues. Ed will send a copy of Joe's contract to all members.

Forgotten from the agenda was the issue of the over-sized memorial we approved last meeting. There has been no word on the issue.

Also excluded was the issue of posting a sign near the entrance to all cemeteries with the rules about plantings and objects at grave sites. Perhaps this will be remembered at the next meeting.

The next meeting has been scheduled. for Wednesday August 24th at the Plainfield Fire Station at 5:30

The formal meeting adjourned at a bit after 6:15 (I forgot to look). All five of us spent another half hour or so in the cemetery.

We observed 6 monuments that need immediate attention. One large stone "Page" near the gate has been tipped over. Another part of the way up the hill and toward the river also a "Page" family monument is severely sinking. Closer to the coop and near it a stone marked "Freeman" is flat on the ground. Near that one a stone marked "Edson" is loose from its base. A stone marked "Townsend" has a failing base (I can't remember for sure but I think it was on the hill). Several of the stones needing repair are quite large and will need heavy lifting equipment. It was suggested that we create a list for the sexton to work from. By my reading of the contract we may have to pay him at an hourly rate for this work. He may not be equipped to do some of the heavier stones.... We plan to work out the details of the process for this work by email over the next few days.

The chain link fence by the parking lot has been damaged by winter snow removal. The town should repair the damage. Up the hill to the north-east

the fence is severely damaged and needs substantial repair. There was a proposal to just eliminate the broken fence if it is not required. This needs to be considered. A fence contractor might be able to sink strong poles deep enough to prevent this seasonal damage.

There are several sink holes deep enough to present a danger of stumbling. These should be filled. Several stones near the sinking areas are tipped and should be lifted and reset. Most are not as seriously in need of work as the ones listed above.