

LYME CEMETERY COMMISSION

August 31, 2012

Present: Simon Carr, Michael Hinsley, Laurel Ross, Jean Smith

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Selectmen's proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Lyme Board of Selectmen and the Cemetery Trustees, dated July 12, 2012. This proposal was created to spell out the expected duties of the newly designated Cemetery Trustees and to clarify the separation of responsibilities between the elected Town Sexton and the Cemetery Trustees.

Points raised and discussed were:

The Cemetery Trustees will be responsible for a yearly budget to appropriate town funds and also continue to draft a yearly budget for the withdrawal of funds from the Perpetual Care Trust. This will commence with the 2013 budget.

The general consensus was that the Sexton, whether elected or appointed, was responsible for all burials in the town cemetery.

The Selectmen's office will provide administration and financial services for personnel and payment processing of all cemetery related activity.

The Cemetery Trustees will probably use the services of the Town's contracted provider for lawn mowing in the town cemeteries.

The statement in the Proposal " ...town employees may receive a lot in the cemetery without paying a fee after they have worked for the town 10 or more years." was discussed and it was pointed out that the Cemetery Commission had never been informed of this agreement and that cemetery regulations have a town-residency requirement which would automatically preclude any non-Lyme employee. This policy needs clarification.

Mike Hinsley made the motion that the members of the Lyme Cemetery Commission take the appropriate measures to transition to Lyme Cemetery Trustees which would probably occur by vote on the candidate ballot of the 2013 Town Meeting. The motion was voted unanimously in the affirmative.