

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

New Castle Cemetery Trustees monthly meeting at New Castle Town Hall, 3.00 p.m.

Present: Jim Cerny, Terri Golter, Carol White, Holly Fraumeni (alternate)

Visitors: Nancy Amazeen Whitlock, Albert Thomits, Gail Harris Whitehouse, Christiane McAllister, Accountant

To start our meeting, we asked the visitors to discuss their concerns or problems with us.

Albert Thomits is concerned about two arborvitae trees which have grown about 40-50 feet tall and the roots are getting big and are disturbing the gravestone on the Harris & Thomits lot. As these lots all border the ocean, there may be rules from the Conservation Commission about whether the trees can be cut or not. Terri will check into this. We all agreed that the trees seemed to be causing a problem with the neighboring gravestones. The trees are on the St. John lot. Carol will try to locate descendants of the St. Johns to discuss the trees.

Gail Whitehouse discussed the weeds and other plants growing into the Harris burial lot. This lot borders onto the stone wall owned by a private party. We had been made aware of the problem a week or so ago and Terri Golter and her husband went out and cut down all the invading plants and piled the brush up. Gail was concerned about the brush pile which we told her the lawn care people would remove. Gail is not happy with the way the lot looks. Terri showed her pictures of how much brush was removed but Gail still has complaints about it. Terri offered to walk with her to look at the lot, but the offer was refused.

Her second complaint was that the gravestone was sinking into the ground and she wants us to add fill to bring the stone up to ground level. Jim explained this was the family's responsibility to take care of. She needs to contact a gravestone company and hire them to come and fix the problem. The stone was originally installed by the Sibson Co. She is still unhappy about the situation.

Nancy Whitlock brought in a baggie full of dried rhododendron leaves to show us what was falling onto the Amazeen graves, which also border onto the stone wall owned by a private party. The rhododendron is in the neighbor's yard. She wants the owner of the bush to cut it back so the leaves don't drop into the cemetery. We offered to cut back any branches that come over the stone wall. She was not pleased with that offer and feels the neighbor is inconsiderate by allowing the leaves to fall into the cemetery.

She also mentioned that a mower left a depression near the Ray Amazeen gravestone. Due to all the wet weather the ground is soft and the wheels sank down. This area has

been filled before and still seems to need more fill. Terri will ask Mike to add more loam to help fill in these ruts.

Christiane came in to discuss a check. The money is coming out of a trust fund and is being used to purchase a lot. Richard Corzatt already had lot 12,1 which was a 5' x 10' lot and they decided to purchase a 10' x 10' lot – 12,3 – so this was a bit complicated. Jim will send out a memo explaining this procedure in more detail.

She also explained the town budget, revenues etc. in relationship to cemetery lot sale monies. We need to track the receipts going into the general fund, document how much we bring in each year and then ask for permission to remove monies and put into an expendable trust fund for cemetery use. We need to have a warrant article to create this trust and fund it. This would be voted on in May.

Christiane was reminding us that we may want to revisit setting up a trust fund to hold money from ongoing g sales rather than have them go into the town general fund as they currently are.

At this point, our meeting had already run 1 ½ hours and we were just starting on the normal agenda.

1 - The August minutes were approved.

2.1 – The budget has not changed since last month. Due to our discussions with the public today, we will need to use more money to rectify some of the concerns. We recognize the need to increase some of our budget categories in the FY20 budget -- prep for that will be coming up in January.

3.1 – Status of Clark/Hughes lot gift to Riverside Cemetery – Nothing has happened on this. Jim suggested that Laurie may want to find another lawyer.

3.2 – Chance/Peralta gravestone has been moved to lot 37,9. Jim spoke to Sean Chance and reviewed with him everything that's been done to try to locate Suzanne Chance's urn. He will send Sean a detailed letter explaining everything.

3.3 – John Willoughby, son of Bob Willoughby, bought Oceanside lot 38,6.

3.4 – The Oceanside lot, 47,17 was purchased by Linda Patchett

3.5 – Fred and Adele Pulitzer have purchased Oceanside lot 45,1.

3.6 – Bill and Emily Hall have purchased Oceanside lot 46,9.

3.7 – Allison & Henry Stebbins have purchased Oceanside lot 42,7.

3.8 – Bradlee purchased Oceanside lots 12,2 and 12,3. We signed the paperwork.

3.9 – Gworek (Palmer) purchased Oceanside lots 5,4. We signed the paperwork. They asked us to hold lot 5,5 for a week until they decide whether to purchase it or not.

3.10 – Richard Corzatt purchased Oceanside lot 12,3 for \$2,000. We signed the paperwork. Previously they had purchased a different, smaller lot. They will be reimbursed \$1,000 from the cemetery trust fund for that lot.

3.11 – Jim received a call from Seacoast Memorials about the placement of the Clifton Wentworth stone and the pre-need stone for Alice. Jim will contact them.

3.12 – Question from Exeter Monument works on the Menger markers for lots 39,8 and 39,7 – Jim will talk to them as he doesn't understand what the problem is.

3.13 – The King family has requested to purchase Oceanside lot 3,4R (5x10) as they already own 3,5 (10x10) and 2,8 (4x5). We will waive the rules and let them buy another lot to equal three total lots.

Other Business

Carol and Jim are registered to attend the Oct. 10 meeting of the NHCA.

Upright Fence has installed the new fence in the Frost Cemetery

Keeping the gate closed at Riverside and keeping people out of the cemetery at night, for picnics etc. is an ongoing problem. We decided to give up and leave the gate open.

The corner post at the entrance to the Marvin Cemetery was probably hit by a vehicle. It's broken and twisted. Kai hopes to come see the problem within the next month.

The pile of grass is still at Riverside even though Terri has asked Mike to remove it numerous times. She'll try again. She'll also ask him to put down grass seed on the Kendrick Poole lot and cut back the rose bushes at the entrance.

As abutters, we were notified of the building plans that Eldred presented to the ZBA. He was turned down.

Next Meeting October 17 at 3 p.m.

Carol White, Secretary