

Stratham Cemetery Trustees Meeting Minutes
27 March 2012

The trustees opened the meeting at 1630 hrs.

Trustees present: Bob Cushman, June Sawyer, John LaBonte

Sexton: Fred Hutton

The trustees and sexton welcomed John LaBonte to the group.

Points of discussion:

1. Review the Emanuel Engineering cemetery plot proposal for developing additional lots. Due to the few lots available this is a priority.

The trustees noted there is available land for several hundred cremations and vault plot, however the immediate shortage is properly surveyed plots suitably identified for proper recording on a deed at the registry.

After considerable discussion of the methodology to be used for identifying (surveying) the new vault and cremation lots and associated roads and walkways the following decisions were made:

A. All four corners (points) of each section, regardless of size (all rectangles) will be permanently located. The type of marker is still to be determined; however a combination of concrete and a steel rod is being contemplated.

B. It was decided that a trip to the New Hampshire State Veteran's Cemetery to review cemetery plot geometry would be a beneficial experience. The cemetery director will be called to schedule an educational visit.

2. Review budget for 2012:

The labor expense was justified by the sexton. The highway department staff has taken advantage of a warm and snowless winter to complete a considerable amount tree and brush trimming. Also, mowing equipment has been tuned and is ready for spring mowing.

Also, the 2012 Cemetery land acquisition monies, line 4901200 was eliminated as dictated by a town meeting vote.

The purpose of the 2011 and 2010 cemetery improvement amounts of \$25,000 and \$15,000 respectively were discussed. The 2010 amount will be used for surveying in 2012.

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3. Major cemetery maintenance issues: It was determined there are none at this time.

4. Sexton concerns:

Sexton Fred Hutton suggested we authorize brush and poison ivy spraying. The trustees requested that Fred obtain a “couple” of quotes for the work and that abutters would be alerted to all “treated” areas with adequate signage.

Also, several stones in all public cemeteries should be straightened before they are damaged with either lawn mowing equipment or the elements. The situation will be review during a scheduled site walk and the sexton has been requested to obtain quotes for the work.

5. Computer documentation progress: June reported she is making continued progress with identifying deceased Stratham residents and their locations in Stratham public cemeteries. Maple Lane cemetery owners and interred persons have been identified and logged in the computer. The process continues.

6. A closed door session may be called at any time in accordance with Chapter 91-A, 311, A, b, c, d, e, or I

No “closed door” decisions or consultations were required.

7. Anything else that may legally come before the trustees

Topics also discussed:

1. The town clerk will be requested to order an additional 24 American Flags for veteran’s graves. The additional flags will be ordered to cover pilferage, weather related damage and new veterans’ graves.

2. The issue of children playing in the cemetery (Harmony Hill and Maple Lane) will be addressed with church officials.

3. Next meeting on 2 April 12 commencing in the Maple Lane Cemetery. Purpose of the meeting; tour and inspect all public cemeteries

4. Approve 27 March 12 meeting minutes

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Cushman
Chairman