September 11, 2014

Petersham Cemetery Commission

Town Office Building

6:00 P.M. Tour of Goddard Cemetery with Glenede Albertine, Deb Bachrach, Barbara Hanno, Ken Levine, Lynn Shaw, and Sheila Youd. Three trees need removal and two gravestones need repair.

The meeting opened at 7:00 P.M. with the following present: Glenede Albertine, Deb Bachrach, Barbara Hanno, Ken Levine, Lynn Shaw, Ann Townsend, Sheila Youd, and Sexton Ellen Anderson. The motions to accept the minutes from the meetings on June 12, 2014 and August 14, 2014 were passed unanimously.

Ellen Anderson, Sexton, reported no burials and no lot sales, but she did relate working with Glenede to update files and checking cemetery lot measurements at East Street Cemetery. Research continues on plot #348 in East Street Cemetery. Barbara helped Glenede locate the grave in West Road Cemetery for Wally Servheen. A large downed tree near Flat Rock Cemetery requires no attention according to the tree warden. It is not a danger to the cemetery. Deb will assist Ellen with locating a lot for sale in Ledgeville Cemetery. Glenede will help Ellen with locating a lot in East Street Cemetery.

Ann Townsend presented the financial report. Ann and Lynn plan to meet with the accountant to clarify some accounts. Treasurer Dana Robinson and Barnes Landscaping were able to settle a previous discrepancy. The account for the West Road Cemetery stonewall is being handled by the central office. The Advisory Finance Committee will address the issue of FY2015 budget.

Regarding cemetery needs, Deb Bachrach volunteered to compile a central list of needs for cemetery repairs from each of us regarding our adopted cemeteries. There should be one list that will be compiled and prioritized for gravestone repairs by TaMara Conde. The other list may be for additional cemetery upkeep such as overgrown shrubs or tree removal requests for Barnes Landscaping. Glenede will be the contact with Barnes Landscaping.

Following the Selectboard’s approval of the increase of fees for weekend and holiday burials, Ann Townsend will update the list of fees, establish a list of holidays with Barnes Landscaping, and notify the town website, office, town clerk, and funeral homes.

Ken reported construction has begun on the rebuilding of the West Road stonewall. The Petersham Highway Department prepared the site by moving the stones. Fran Misiuk has a string line following the dimensions of the upper wall and has begun the placement of stones. Bill Purple visits the site. Ken did not have to attend the OSHA training. Sheila will contact the tree warden regarding possible damage to a tree at the site. Lynn will contact a family regarding their use of the cemetery for parking during a recent wedding in the neighborhood of West Road Cemetery.

Lynn reported on meetings with Fran Misiuk, Roger Graves, Christine Mandel, Sheila Youd, Deb Bachrach, and Richard McCrae regarding repair of the Hearse House. After beginning with the premise that the entire building needed to be torn down and rebuilt, the group settled with the following plan. The first step should be to test the footings (cost $500-$1000). Next, the roof needs to be covered with a billboard tarp ($100 materials, $600 labor) until it can be repaired. It seems hopeful that possibly only the west wall will need to be rebuilt. Lynn will request permission from the Selectboard to proceed on an action plan. Possibilities for funding are as follows: 1) request funds at a Town Meeting, 2) request a Reserve Fund transfer from the Finance Committee, 3) Christine Mandel will research grants, or 4) research funding from cemetery accounts. Barbara and Sheila volunteered to work on publicity to build interest in the Hearse House project.

Ann reported that Anne Pringle with be presenting her lichen project at a seminar at Harvard Forest on Friday, September 19, 2014 at 11:00 A.M., and Barbara suggested a cemetery tour in Templeton. The meeting ended at 8:30 P.M. The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenede Albertine Minutes read and accepted at the meeting on

 November 14, 2014