August 14, 2014

Petersham Cemetery Commission

Town Office Building

Meeting Minutes August 14, 2014

Present: Lynn Shaw, Ken Levine, Ann Townsend, Sheila Youd, Deb Bachrach

Absent: Glenede Albertine, Barbara Hanno

6:00 pm Tour of Williams Cemetery, 6:30 Tour of Ledgeville Cemetery

The meeting opened at 7:20 P.M. with the following present: Deb Bachrach, Ken Levine, Lynn Shaw, Ann Townsend, Sheila Youd, and Sexton Ellen Anderson. Glenede Albertine was late. Thank you to Lynn for taking over with the minutes. There was no meeting in July due to a lack of quorum.

Ellen Anderson, Sexton, reported four burials which included Dorothy Gildersleeve on July 2, 2014 in #247 East Street Cemetery (cremation), Bernard Baldwin on July 12, 2014 in #135 West Road Cemetery (full burial), Sr. Mary Herbert Walsh on August 6, 2014 in #348 East Street Cemetery (full burial), and Hope Grace Sherwood on August 16, 2014 in #402 E in East Street Cemetery (cremation). Also, the burial of Sr. Rachel LaBranche was done by Barnes Landscaping in the East Street Cemetery (full burial) in June 2014. There were no lot sales; however Saint Scholastica Priory is interested in purchasing additional lots in #348 East Street Cemetery with one lot currently available. Deb Bachrach will supply additional stakes to Ellen for marking graves. Glenede and Ellen will measure the 400s section of the East Street Cemetery. Ken will make a new, lighter grave outliner for Ellen.

Ann Townsend presented the financial report. The account #491 was rolled into FY2015 successfully. Ann intends to meet with Jean Joel in order to research discrepancies in the expendable trust for the payment made for Memorial Day cemetery flowers and the revolving account for payments to Barnes Landscaping for burials.

Regarding cemetery needs, the repair of the Moulton stone in the corner of the Ledgeville Cemetery was determined to need repair as soon as possible. The “adoption” of cemeteries by members of the Cemetery Commission was as follows: Center (Sheila), Mann and Williams (Ann), Goddard (Glenede), Nichewaug (Lynn), West Road (Ken), Ledgeville (Deb), Flat Rock (Barbara), and East Street (Deb & all).

Regarding the Hearse House, Lynn reported on her meetings with Roger Graves and Fran Misiuk. Fran’s assessment is that the deterioration of the building and ingrowth of vines and roots requires that the building be disassembled and rebuilt. Roger cannot repair the roof until the sides are repaired and stabilized. Lynn will continue working on a plan with Fran, Roger, Christine Mandel (researching grants), and Richard McCrae (architect).

Regarding the West Road Cemetery stonewall construction, Fran Misiuk was awarded the contract and begins work in September. The poison ivy has been removed ($535.00).

Regarding burial fees for weekend and holidays and winter burials, the motion to raise the burial fee for weekend and holiday burials from $350 to $450 for full burials and from $125 to $225 for cremation burials and for weekend and holiday burials (frost) from $450 to $550 for full burials and from $175 to $275 for cremation burials was passed unanimously. A letter recommending the change in fees will be sent to the Selectboard by Lynn Shaw, and Glenede will contact Rexine for any concerns.

Regarding the reimbursement of previous lot sales, Glenede will contact Beth Cummings to inform her of the procedure in the Rules and Regulations. Also, Glenede will contact Kay Cousens regarding the possibility of additional lots in #348 East Street Cemetery for the Saint Scholastic Nunnery. The Rules and Regulations state that “Resale of lots: No selling of a lot to a third party is allowed. Should a lot owner wish to dispose of a lot this can be done by selling the lot back to the Town for its purchase price. The Town may then sell the lot to a recommended third party if requested by the party returning the lot. Such action will assure that the Cemetery Commission records remain accurate. Payments related to perpetual care are not reimbursable by the Town.”

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenede Albertine

Lynn Shaw Minutes read and accepted at the

 meeting on September 11, 2014