Petersham Cemetery Commission Minutes

1-10-23

Present: Barbara Hanno, Pam Chevalier, John Ewing, Ken Levine, Robin Koenig, Ron DeJackome

Absent: Rich Nicoletti, Linda Everett

1. Minutes from 12- 13-22 were reviewed and accepted as written.
2. The sexton reported one full burial, Sr. Mary Ella Provencher, on 12-17-22, in East St.

There are six requests pending for lot sales, which are still being reviewed.

1. There have been no expenditures from our available funds. We have $2185.57 in our expendable account.
2. The budget report for the town is due in February. The members were asked if they had saw any need to increase our budget. We receive $3000 a year from the town for discretionary funds. There were no new needs suggested, so we will ask for flat funding.
3. The signs are all paid for, except for a post which Ken Levine needs to be reimbursed for. He was asked to submit an invoice to get paid, which may be approximately $16.
4. Everyone should check their cemeteries for gravestone repair needs. With the money remaining in our fund, we can ask TaMara Conde about repairs. This needs to get done before the fiscal year ends on June 30th.
5. This year, we need to survey the trees in the cemeteries with the tree warden, to see what priorities there are for trimming and removing. The old tree warden had said he would do this, but he left. The new tree warden is Greg Waid, who was approached about this last year and agreed to do this. Ron DeJackome says Greg has a tree specialist working with him who could help.
6. Nancy Allen was contacted about asking for extra funding for a cemetery tree project. This expense is the responsibility of the town, as the trees in the cemeteries are considered town trees.
7. Diana Cooley told us we cannot make a list of veterans from our records, as it is against privacy laws. If someone has a veterans marker or if an obituary states they are a veteran, that is public information, and could be used. We will work with Ron to make as complete a list as we can. Everyone needs to look in their assigned cemeteries and see if they can identify veterans, then we can work together.
8. Barbara and Robin reviewed maps for Flat Rock and did an on-site observation to help decide if a burial plot can be sold there for Laura Silva. Her husband ---- has passed, and she says she wants to buy a plot for two cremation burials and wait until she passes to use it. Chris Barnes says he can do a cremation burial there. The Cemetery Commission had listed it as closed to new burial, but from reviewing old maps and documents, it looks like there is space for cremations. The Commission agreed to her request.
9. The Rules and Regulations and additions, about lot representation and a liability form, were reviewed and prepared to send to town counsel. A page of questions is also included to clarify questions about the watershed and grandfathering of cemeteries. Barbara will submit this to Nancy Allen, as Select Board chair, to forward to town counsel. A copy of the submission will be attached to the online Cemetery Commission site.
10. The next meeting will be February 14, 2012, at 1pm, in the lower town hall.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Hanno, Chair