

## **Cemetery Commission MEETING MINUTES**

**August 13, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 4:03PM by Chairman Upham.

Members present: All present (Commissioners Mr. Brad Bates and Mr. Richard De Moranville)

Guests present: Nancy LaFave, Brian Reynolds, Linda Grubbs , Author Jean Douillette , Rita Garbett and Cindy McRae.

Minutes of Meeting held on July 30, 2008 were read, accepted and approved.

A motion by Commissioner Bates to hear a request from town resident Mr. Edward Moranville, Main Street, taken out of order of the agenda and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner De Moranville. Approved.

Mr. Moranville expressed concerns of his family's 8 lot purchase at the north entrance of the cemetery. He offered to pay for a deep penetration of his lot to determine how many burials are available. His great grandfather purchased the lots. A meeting was scheduled for 9:00AM, 16, August to view the lots and to see what may be available by town records.

A second out of order of the agenda for Ms. Garbett and Ms. Cindy McRea was approved. Enterprise Fund issue was discussed at length with Ms. Garbett and Ms. Cindy McRea. It was determined that it is unlawful by Massachusetts Statue to have an Enterprise Fund for Cemeteries. All revenue received for Cemetery Fees is entered into separate accounts identified by the town accountant placed into the general fund. The perpetual care fund is a trust fund and untouchable. It was recommended to file a budget for the Cemetery Commission that would include operating expenses based upon anticipated revenue. Additional discussion was centered about the new fee schedule, burial permit and interment permit. It was determined that the fee schedule should be clarified to reflect old fees since 1982 and new fees. It was agreed that the cemetery commission would meet with the Board of Selectmen on August 11, 2008.

A third out of order of the agenda was to welcome Ms. Nancy Lefavre and Mr. Brian Reynolds of the Historical Society. Discussion was centered on Thompson Hill Cemetery and to have it recognized on the National Historic Register. Questions asked by the Society referred to the removal of the granite posts and iron pipes. These posts are most probably located at Ted Williams Camp. It was agreed to look into this matter with the intention of having as many of these posts returned to Thompson Hill Cemetery. A second site where some of the posts may be is at Courtyard Gardens located on Route

105. A third area of discussion was to encourage the formation of a local "Friends of the Cemeteries". These similar groups are located throughout many of the towns in the country. They assist in the maintenance, security and beautification of cemeteries. Ms. Lefavre will furnish information regarding these groups and what they do. Another meeting with the Historical Society is contemplated in the near future to follow up at this meeting.

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### **Unfinished BUSINESS:**

A: A motion was made by Commissioner Bates to accept the proposal from Durfee Tree Service for Ward Cemetery and to postpone, until money is available to do Pond Cemetery. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner DeMoranville. Approved.

B: A second motion made by Commissioner Bates to have the Chairman, Commissioner Upham fill out the necessary form to apply for an Emergency Fund Appropriation to do Pond Cemetery tree problem as it poses a possible injury to visitors. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner DeMoranville. Approved.

C: The highway department will do the test bore at Strobridge Cemetery in November. They will report their findings to Commissioner Bates. Accepted.

D: South East Fence Company did receive a check for the damaged fence at Thompson Hill Cemetery from Eastern Vault Company. It was recommended that the entrance be repaired; however, after further discussion it was decided to wait until the Historical Commission decided on their course of action and the submission of the application to make the cemetery a recognized historical site. Approved.

E: Memo from Town Administrator addressing FY09, 10, and 11 is tabled for next meeting.

F: Formation of Rules and Regulations for Town Grave Diggers is tabled until next meeting.

**Communications:** None

**New Business:** None further than the out of order sequences.

### **Pay all Bills:**

A motion to pay all bills was made by Commissioner Bates and seconded by Commissioner DeMoranville. Approved.

There being no further business a motion was made by Commissioner DeMoranville to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Bates. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56PM.

Next meeting scheduled for 4:00PM, September 10, 2008, Town Hall Conference Room.