

Cemetery Commission MEETING MINUTES
July 30, 2008

Meeting called to order at 4:02PM by Chairman Upham.

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

Guests present: Author Jean Douillette (**Lakeville Massachusetts Gravestone Inscriptions 1711-2003**).

Minutes of Meeting held on July 9, 2008 were read, accepted and approved with corrections.

Unfinished BUSINESS:

A: Clarification on Town Diggers: Commissioner Bates felt that a comprehensive set of rules and expectations for town grave diggers should be established. He will contact Mr. Standish, a prospective digger after the rules are in place This matter is tabled until the next meeting to allow time to formulate individual thoughts on this issue. Agreed.

B: Strobbridge Cemetery: It was agreed that test bores need to be done on the new section in order to determine the viability of using it for graves. Commissioner Bates stated that the Highway Department with their back-hoe could do the test. He will discuss this with the Highway Department and report upon it at the next meeting. Agreed.

C: Cemetery monies collected: Commissioner Bates and DeMoranville would like to have a separate cemetery fund. They suggested that an Enterprise Fund be established. This fund would be in addition to the mandatory Trust Fund. All commissioners felt that a separate fund is necessary to maintain the town cemeteries and not have to appropriate money from the general fund. This matter will be discussed with the town accountant.

D: The awarding of a contract for Ward Cemetery was discussed and it is tabled until the next meeting to await additional bids for Pond Cemetery which was discussed at the last meeting. This could be a package contract doing both cemeteries. This matter is tabled until the next meeting to await new proposals which include Pond Cemetery. Agreed.

E: Cemetery reports were given for the assigned cemeteries. Reports accepted. Commissioner Upham pointed out that the newspaper notice to have flowers, wreaths and odd and ends removed from the cemeteries have not been done. The town regulations regarding items on cemetery lots are not being followed. Commissioner Bates will bring this issue to the highway department as well as moving the signs and

grass cutting needing to be done. The issue regarding the review of cemetery rules and regulations need to be looked at. This is tabled for a future meeting. Approved.

F: After a lengthy discussion and review of the cemetery price comparison sheet (attached) and local cemetery prices (attached) Commissioner DeMoranville motioned to accept the new prices, 2nd by Commissioner Bates. All approved. It was decided to send the Board of Selectmen a letter informing them of the new prices for their review. It was also decided to meet with the Board of Selectmen at a later date, when a complete overview of what the commission has done to date can be presented. Approved.

G: South East Fence Company submitted 2 proposals. One would repair the damaged post and rails at Thompson Hill for \$298.00. It was voted upon to send the proposal to Eastern Vault Company who is responsible for the damage. Approved. The second proposal from South East Fence Company for \$390.00 to widen existing entrances was approved. The money to be taken from the Cemetery Fund. Approved.

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

Communications: Letter from Joseph Chamberlain regarding his donated property. Attached.

New Business:

1. Samson and Mullein Hill Cemeteries were briefly discussed. Sampson will soon be a State authorized private cemetery. Mullein Hill has their own Cemetery Commission; however, pays \$150.00 to the Town of Lakeville for perpetual care, (per lot.) correction added per lot.

2. A Field Trip to Precinct Cemetery at 9:00AM on August 9, 2008 was agreed upon. The results will be discussed at the next meeting.

Pay all Bills:

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:56PM.

Next meeting scheduled for 4:00PM, August 13, 2008, Town Hall Conference Room.