

Lakeville Cemetery Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. By Chairman Upham in the Great Ponds Gallery of The Lakeville Library.

Members present: Commissioners Upham, Beal and Morton

Guests: None

Minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting were read and approved.

Old Business:

1. Infra-red ground penetration to look for unmarked graves at Strobridge Cemetery was discussed. Commissioner Beal found a company in Boston which charges \$800 for ½ day-covering an acre. The front rectangle of the cemetery needs to be checked, an area of approximately 150 yds by 150 yds. If a grave or something significant is located, the company will mark that site. MA General Laws allow us to bury in a previous grave if it is more than 75 years old. The question at Strobridge is whether Native Americans or Quakers might be buried in the unmarked front section, since both of these groups would have no markers. Commissioners Upham and Beal will go to the cemetery and measure the area, then contact the company.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to expend up to \$2000 for the infra-red ground penetration at Strobridge Cemetery.

2. We need to have a sign made for meetings at the Library meeting rooms, "Cemetery Commission Meeting In Progress," for anyone wanting to attend the meetings. We will contact Wayne Kingsley to make the sign.
3. The Cemetery Commission budget for 2018 will be \$13,000.
4. The raising of cemetery fees was discussed. Fees have not been raised since 2008. Chairman Upham presented current lists of fees from six local cemeteries. After averaging out all of this information, new fees were set for Lakeville cemeteries. These fees are still lower than other local towns.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the newly calculated fees.

The Commission will set a date to present these new fees to the Selectmen for their approval.

New Business:

1. We have several pending projects. We need to see what funds we have on hand before we move forward. The proposal for fence repairs at Ward Cemetery is \$4590. Tabled until the next meeting.
2. Pierce Cemetery is about to be cut off by the new South Coast Rail Project. They are proposing an elevated pedestrian walkway over the tracks. This is unacceptable because we need access to the cemetery for maintenance.
3. A divider fence between Thompson Hill and Precinct Cemeteries was discussed. The removal and resetting of granite posts and rods from Pierce Cemetery for this purpose was presented as a possibility. The Commission would try to sell the vinyl fence from Precinct and Thompson Hill and reinvest the money. Chris Reed said that he could do this with assistance. Commissioner Upham will take Chris to Pierce Cemetery to assess the work necessary for this project and provide an estimate. We need 29 old granite posts for the divider fence. Commissioner Beal has concerns that we will not have sufficient funds going forward.
4. Commissioner Upham has downloaded the files from the Veterans Cemetery and is working on Clark. We will ask Rita if she has anyone who can help us with this. If not, Commissioner Beal will go to Old Colony and ask if they have any students who could assist us.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

The next meeting will be on March 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.