

PEMBROKE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

April 14, 2016

Minutes

Present: James Garvin, Donald Hill, Ellen Paulsen, V. J. Ranfos, David Richards (chair), Fleda Young. Deborah Loiselle and Erik Paulsen also attended the meeting.

1. Chairman Richards called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Hall.
2. The Commission approved the minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2015.
3. Acting upon his announcement in October 2015 that he will no longer be able to serve as chair of the Cemetery Commission, David Richards nominated Donald S. Hill as chair. The motion was seconded by Fleda Young, and was passed unanimously.
4. The Commission discussed the proposals of the Paulsen family to provide for family burials in the Viken lot in Old North Pembroke Cemetery, as outlined in Item 3 of the minutes of September 10, 2015 and Item 3 of the minutes of October 8, 2015.

In October 2015, the Commission voted unanimously to authorize the sale and issuance of burial permits for one additional 4 foot by 8 foot lot on each side of the existing Viken lot, as it was soon to be defined by stone corner bounds, contingent upon verification by the Public Works Department that the new lots would not interfere with or encroach upon existing graves or gravestones.

V. J. Ranfos reported that it proved to be impossible to place one 4-by-8-foot plot on each side of the existing Viken plot. The Commission thereupon approved conveying burial permits to two 4-by-8-foot plots on the south side of the Viken plot, where space is available. One plot shall be in the name of Deborah Loiselle; the second lot shall be in the name of Erik Paulsen. The fee for the burial permit for the double lot will be \$350.00. The Commission noted that the above authorizations are made in the context of the sale in 1977 of the 8½ foot by 12 foot lot to Patricia Viken and Jeannie Viken Schlette (now Keith), before the Cemetery Commission was established, and that Old North Pembroke Cemetery remains closed to new burials and monuments except in the lots discussed here. The character of new monuments should be harmonious with the existing gravestones in the cemetery.

5. V. J. Ranfos will distribute a list of current burial permit fees at the May meeting.
6. Jim Garvin and Ellen Paulsen reported that Ellen's daughter, Katie, requested permission to take the damaged wooden gate as a pattern for duplication so that the duplicate gate can be installed at the entrance to Old North Pembroke Cemetery. The Commission authorized the loan of the gate for duplication.

7. V. J. Ranfos summarized a letter of April 6, 2016, from licensed forester Ronald J. Klemarczyk reporting on the logger's inability to cut the white pine trees in Evergreen Cemetery during the winter of 2015-16 due to the fact that the ground in the cemetery did not freeze deeply enough to bear the weight of logging equipment (a scan of the letter is attached to these minutes). The letter proposes to maintain all the terms of the original logging agreement and to harvest the trees during the summer of 2016 if ground conditions permit, protecting the lawns and roadways with planks to distribute the weight of the machines. If the soil remains soft during the summer, the logger will make another attempt to cut the trees during the winter of 2016-17. If the logger cuts more than 20,000 board feet of pine sawlogs, he will pay the town for stumpage above that amount. Mr. Klemarczyk's charges for marking, layout, and supervision of the harvest should not exceed \$2,000.00, which may be partially or wholly reimbursed if the logger cuts more than 20,000 board feet of sawlogs. The logger will haul away any non-marketable stumps if he can, or load them into Public Works trucks or dispose of them at the back of Evergreen Cemetery (but not in the pond or on the banks of the pond).
8. The Commission discussed the repointing and repair of the Badger-Appleton tomb in Evergreen Cemetery. Jim Garvin reported that in December 2015 he had taken two samples of the soft material in the mortar joints to an asbestos testing firm, RPF Environmental of Northwood, paying the \$100 testing fee due to the urgent need to determine any asbestos content so that the mason could point the tomb before cold weather. The filler material tested positive for asbestos (15% chrysolite content), so the repointing had to be delayed. The Public Works Department secured a bid from abatement contractors EnviroVantage of Epping to remove and dispose of the material for \$2,950, plus \$750 for verification of abatement by an industrial hygienist. The abatement will begin on April 25, 2016. As soon as clearance is given by the industrial hygienist, Lester Baker of Pro-Point in Pittsfield will begin pointing the tomb, following the Commission's written specifications, at the \$8,400 price he quoted in December 2015.
9. The Commission noted that Warrant Article 5, appropriating \$20,000 for repairs and survey in Pembroke Street and Pembroke Hill Cemeteries, was approved at the 2016 Town Meeting. This appropriation should permit the area at the rear of Pembroke Hill Cemetery to be cleared, grubbed, and seeded for future sales and burials. V. J. will contact Wright-Pierce to try to determine a price for an on-line listing of all burials at Pembroke Hill Cemetery, as proposed in the October 2013 Wright-Pierce list of additional services. The appropriation should also allow the repair of damaged monuments at Pembroke Street Cemetery. The Commission discussed developing generic specifications for ordinary monument repairs to use with requests for proposals for future repairs.
10. Don Hill asked about the possibility of surveying cemeteries with ground-penetrating radar. Jim search for firms that provide this service.
11. The next regular meeting of the Commission will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Hall.
12. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin, Secretary

FORECO

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April 6, 2016

Pembroke Cemetery Commission
c/o Department of Public Works
8 Exchange Street
Pembroke NH 03275

Dear Commissioners,

Last Spring, I was asked by the Town of Pembroke to help set up a tree removal project at the Evergreen Cemetery on Buck Street after the Town had received some very high cost estimates for the project. I then met with a logger that has done this type of work for me in the past and he agreed to do the work at no cost to the Town as long as he could keep the sawlogs. We both felt that the best time to do the harvest would be in the winter when the ground would be frozen and snow covered which would help protect the lawn areas as well as the interior road system. We worked out an agreement with an abutting landowner to cross their property to prevent potential damage to the cemetery while skidding out the cut trees.

In order for this to work, the logger had to be able to move onto the lot and stay there until the project was finished as the costs of moving all of his equipment several times would mean that he would have to then bill the Town. This also meant that we needed an extended cold spell for the ground and pavement to freeze up to minimize potential damage while accessing the "island" of pine in the center of the cemetery.

Unfortunately, this winter's weather was influenced by the El Nino phenomenon which typically means warm, wet winter weather for New England. Although we did have a few cold snaps, they were very short in duration and immediately followed by warm temperatures or by a rain spell. As a result, the logger did not want to commit himself as he knew he would have to shut things down.

There is a chance that the harvest could be done this summer if we have an extended drought. It would require the logger to put planks on the road and lawn area to protect them from the skidders. If it is a wet summer, then we would have to wait until next winter to start the project.

Again, the project is designed to be of no cost to the Town with the idea if the logger cuts more than 20,000 board feet of pine sawlogs, he will pay for the stumpage above that amount which will help cover my time. Otherwise, there will be the expense of my marking, layout and supervision of the harvest, which should not exceed \$2,000.00. I hope that I have explained the situation, but feel free to give me a call at 746-4846 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Klemarczyk
Licensed Forester #116