

PEMBROKE CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING

May 10, 2006

Minutes

Present: Gerald Belanger (chair), James Garvin, Emile Lacerte, David Richards.

1. Chairman Belanger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Hall.
2. On a motion by David Richards, seconded by Emile Lacerte, the minutes of the meeting of October 12, 2005, were approved as written.
3. Dave Richards reported on his survey of Evergreen Cemetery. Using old lists from the New Hampshire Historical Society, he was able to document burials in Evergreen Cemetery up to 1947. For burials after 1947, he used the existing surveyor's plan of the cemetery and has examined every lot to match burials with perpetual care payments in the official list supplied by the Trustees of Trust Funds. At Chairman Belanger's suggestion, Mr. Belanger and/or Dave will discuss his findings with Trust Funds trustee Gerard Fleury.
4. Dave Richards further reported on the condition of the town's receiving tomb at Evergreen Cemetery. Dave had talked with Tom Petit about the tomb, and Mr. Petit offered the opinion that it would not be worthwhile to attempt to refurbish the structure for renewed use as a receiving tomb.
5. Chairman Belanger noted that the Cemetery Commission has previously talked with the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Committee about building a mausoleum for cremation burials at the back of Evergreen Cemetery, or about laying out part of the land for regular burials. The CIP Committee had asked the Cemetery Commission to provide some estimate for the costs of developing this section of the cemetery, testing the soil with a backhoe or otherwise determining which areas could be used for burials and which are blocked by bedrock.
6. Regarding the purchase of equipment or services under the 2005 Cemetery Commission budget (see Item #5 in the minutes of October 12, 2005), Chairman Belanger reported that Paul Provencher of Green Tomato Lawn Care had been contracted to clear brush at the rear of Pembroke Street Cemetery. Mr. Belanger had authorized Mr. Provencher to provide services up to a ceiling of \$1,500.00, to be paid from the outstanding budget balance of \$2,900.00. Green Tomatoes Lawn Care eventually submitted a bill for \$1,200.00, but by that time the outstanding balance in the Cemetery Commission budget appears to have lapsed or to have been merged with the General Fund.

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7. Chairman Belanger discussed an e-mailed letter of March 22, 2006, from Patricia S. Wasson to Town Administrator Troy Brown, with a reply from Mr. Brown dated March 24, 2006. The letter noted that the grave lot of Ms. Wasson's father and mother (Lot #215 in Evergreen Cemetery) had not been raked, and that shrubs were almost dead from lack of water. Following consultation with Mr. Belanger, Mr. Brown had replied that no maintenance of cemeteries is done between November and April, and that it is the lot owner's responsibility to seek permission to plant shrubs and, if permission is granted, to care for the plants.
8. Chairman Belanger noted that containers and plastic flowers are scattered over many of the town cemeteries. He noted that the cemetery regulations require Cemetery Commission approval for the placement of decorations, and that the regulations specify that such decorations may be removed after June 15th. Secretary James Garvin suggested that we post the cemetery regulations at each of the larger cemeteries.
9. Chairman Belanger reported on a discussion he had had with Nancy Foster regarding the flagpole at Evergreen Cemetery. This flagpole is missing the sheave at the top and the halyard cleat at the bottom. Nancy had reported that the flagpole is too weak and flexible for anyone to climb, or to support the pressure of a ladder. Mr. Belanger searched flagpole catalogues and received a quote from Winnepesaukee Marine of \$480.00 plus shipping on a 20-foot fiberglass pole. He received a second quote of \$449.00 from Flag-Works of Concord for a 20-foot GS-20 pole for a 4' by 6' flag, including a ball finial, halyards, and weights. GS-20 is a ground-sleeve pole. A hinged pole would cost \$1,100. A pole with an internal halyard would cost \$1,400. He recommended that the Commission purchase a GS-20 pole. Dave Richards suggested that the current pole could be cut at the ground, equipped with hardware, and spliced at the cut with PVC piping.
10. Chairman Belanger received a quote from Flag-Works of Concord of \$198.72 per gross of small veterans' flags if purchased in quantities of 1 to 2 gross. We will need new flags for the 2007 season.
11. Emile Lacerte reported that he had met with the owners of the Lacaillade lot on Pembroke Hill Cemetery, near the Gelinas lot. The Gelinas lot has a large stone bench, and this would encroach on the location of a headstone placed at the center of the Lacaillade lot. Mr. Lacerte asked about the position of the Cemetery Commission regarding memorial benches. It was suggested that we need to draft new rules regarding benches, which are becoming popular.

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12. The Commission agreed to hold the spring cemetery inspection beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2006.
13. Chairman Belanger announced that his term on the Cemetery Commission is expiring. He is moving permanently to Laconia, and therefore cannot continue as a Commission member. The Commission is in need of several members. Mr. Belanger has tried to recruit Ron Rush as a possible member. Emile Lacerte reported that he knows a town employee who might be interested in joining the Commission.
14. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Wednesday, June 14, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Hall.
15. On a motion by Dave Richards, seconded by Jim Garvin, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin
Secretary