

HARTFORD CEMETERY COMMITTEE

DRAFT Meeting Minutes - 5/29/18

PRESENT SUE BUCKHOLZ, LARRY HUDSON, KEN PARKER, ART PEALE, TOBY DAYMAN, JOHN NEWTON

ABSENT JEFF KNIGHT

LIAISONS DENNIS BROWN, SCOTT HAUSLER

COMMUNITY

MEMBERS HENRY HAZEN

Review of 4/30/18 meeting minutes. Sue noted that the list on the last page was of items that were on the agenda but which were not discussed.

John moved to accept as written, Larry seconded, no discussion, minutes accepted, Toby abstained as he was not present for that meeting.

Discussion of the cemetery tour:

Dennis remarked upon lack of water at the Hartford Cemetery. He asked the Town Manager and learned that the water main break is between two graves and no one wants to dig up for fear of disturbing the graves.

Leo also said that the Town reported that there was water to the lower Quechee cemetery but no one used it. Larry said that his father told him that there was a water main/pipe break.

FINANCES

MOWING ISSUES

Ken asked how each was dealing with mowing. Larry reported that he and his wife Michelle mowed the upper cemetery in Quechee and it took them 20 hours. Someone mowed the lower cemetery in Quechee but Larry did not have a price yet.

Ken reported that one mowing at the Hartford Cemetery this summer took 25 hours work hours and cost \$1,600.00.

Larry spoke with someone in Woodstock who reported that there are 10 cemeteries in Woodstock. All of the Woodstock cemeteries pay \$250 for a burial to the person who is doing that service for each of their cemeteries.

Larry said that Tom Thibodeau is trying out the mowing at Quechee; we are waiting for a price once he is done with two mowings. Sue requested that each member send her an email with the details of what they have learned about mowing to date so she can include that information in the minutes.

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

Ken reported that Hartford did not sell any lots last year. A cremation costs \$200 (half to association, half to digger). A full burial costs \$600 (\$150 to association, \$450 to digger).

General discussion ensued of various cemeteries and their condition, needs, etc. The committee briefly touched upon the questions of restrictions upon funds held by the private cemeteries.

Endowment information is important to getting some idea of how

Discussion of what governs/restricts what we can do with our funds. If there is a private trust agreement, does that override the state restrictions?

[At this point, Sue had to leave. The remainder of the notes for the minutes were kindly provided by Dennis Brown.]

TASKS GOING FORWARD:

- Find out where the water break is in Hartford Cemetery
- Follow up on road by Quechee
- Work on getting a cost sheet, what the endowments are, what the expenses are etc.

CURRENT INFORMATION ON MOWING:

- 20 hours for Quechee
- 25 hours for Hartford = \$1,600 @ \$64 an hour
- 8 hours for Christian St = \$512 @ \$64 an hour
- Hartford only has enough money for a year to a year and a half.
- Christian Street only has enough money through next year.
- Many sites don't have 4' foundations

DISCUSSION OF FUNDING FOR CEMETERIES

- Possibly give the endowments to the town to fund care of cemeteries.
- Quechee doesn't have records of their funds
- Christian St. also has poor financial records
- W. Hartford has about enough for 20 years of care
- Can't touch endowments
- Reluctance to get incorporated when they only have enough for a year of care
- Possibly turn money (endowments) over to the town, with restrictions of only being able to use money for cemeteries
- If dissolved, the town may, take over the cemetery
- Matt Osborn is applying for a grant, but they don't know exactly what it is or dollar amount

Respectfully submitted this June 12, 2018.

Susan M. Buckholz, Esq.