

Minutes of the Cemetery Committee  
Thursday, Oct 4 2012

Present: Bonnie Nugent, Stefan Kostka, Camille White, and Win Healy

Meeting called to order at 11 AM by Bonnie Nugent. There being no personnel present in the Town Hall the meeting took place on the back steps thereof.

1. The Committee heard and asked questions of **Walter Clark**, sole trustee of the East Charlemont Cemetery. Mr. Clark expressed concerns about the declining membership of the association, the financial status of the association (\$10,000) which he felt might be inadequate to the long term upkeep of the cemetery, and concern with the status of some of the headstones. Various alternative strategies for maintaining this and other cemeteries were discussed. Mr. Clark turned over an old and faded plot plan, which Win Healy will duplicate for the Cemetery committee records as well as for Mr. Clark's records. Copies of the deed were given to Camille White for Cemetery Committee records. Mr. Clark was thanked for his report.
2. It being cold and rainy, the committee agreed to continue the meeting at Otters Restaurant, after so noting on the posted meeting notice at the Town Hall.
3. The meeting reconvened at 11:55 AM at Otters. Bonnie displayed the "Cemetery book" single source containing all our research and information on all town cemeteries, which book is faithfully updated with each new piece of data by Bonnie. Bonnie was thanked for her work on the "book".
4. It was agreed that Bonnie would send a PDF of the book to each member.
5. The minutes for two meetings were signed and approved.
6. The committee voted to ask Stefan to research and hopefully copy relevant Mass General Law concerning cemeteries, in order to clarify what actions may or may not be taken by what entities regarding the care and upkeep of cemeteries and separately, the care and upkeep of headstones. This would include the difference between Cemetery Committees and Cemetery Commissions.
7. Win Healy reported on the class in headstone restoration he took through GCC. Pertinent information was shared about safety, legality of repair, proper repair techniques for "leaners," "tilters," and broken headstones, ownership of headstones, available research, and available consultants. Charles Marchant was mentioned as a future consultant on cemetery and headstone repair.
8. Camille reported on her research into the known ownership of each town cemetery. Her research is kept carefully on each cemetery, including cases in which ownership is unknown or deeds are unclear. Camille's work is nearly complete and the committee expressed thanks for the thoroughness of her reports.
9. It was moved that " The Cemetery committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they find the means to trim and remove trees which endanger

- the Old Cemetery (off Center Heath Road behind the Hicks farm) with all deliberate speed.” The motion passed unanimously and Win Healy will ask the Selectmen to put it on their agenda.
10. The Committee agreed to request Camille to write Toby Gould and Mac Haskell to thank them for their excellent service in the Zoar Cemetery.
  11. Bonnie announced that she would be out of town between Oct 17 and April 7, 2013. Members will stay in touch by email in the interim. Bonnie will convene the next meeting after she returns in early April.
  12. Voted to adjourn at 1:15 PM.

Winston Healy, Secretary

Bonnie Nugent, Chair

Camille White

Stefan Kostka