

APPROVED August 6, 2014

Ripton Cemetery Commission Meeting July 2, 2014

In attendance: Liz Walker, Charles Billings, Bonnie Swan, Lisa Knickerbocker Agenda distributed to attendees. See attachment 1-1 7/2/2014

- 1) Approve the minutes from June 4, 2014 meeting –Lisa moved to approve June 4th meeting minutes, seconded by Bonnie. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote. See attachment 1-2 7/2/2014.
- 2) Charles met with the Ripton Selectboard on June 23rd regarding Cemetery Committee business. A summary of items covered is given in section 2A of the July 2nd Cemetery Commission Meeting agenda attached. This was in response to the proposed budget submitted last month to the Selectboard, including current need to fund survey of college land for proposed gift to town for the Galvin Cemetery expansion, and the important legal requirements that the cemetery commission and town must meet regarding the cemeteries. Map of approximate location of additional, adjacent land to the Cook cemetery which may be donated by the /Hanson family was distributed. See attachment 2A
- 3) A/) Christie Lafayette’s grievances and questions – missing corner stones – Bonnie will call her back to ask how many are missing and tell her we are looking into it. Bonnie says corners stone can sink (Walker/ Billings and S. DeGray both “missing” one corner stone each) so we may need to probe below ground to find them. Christie also needs some direction on where her other lots are located and has a question about adding other family members names to deeds which we need to address in our Rules and Regulations.

NOTE – new survey and plotting maps would be extremely helpful to address location of plots for burials, families and visitors.

B) New Certificate of Burial Rights Document – to replace current “deed” – Charles split the document into one specific to Galvin and one for the Cook cemeteries. During discussion commissioners suggested that lot size should be included, but otherwise the committee is ready to adopt the document. See attachment 3B

C/) Began revising the Rules and Regulations document, got through page 4, began page 5. Remaining will be discussed at future meetings.

D) Green or Natural Burials – Cheryl was not present with her research. Charles did find that there is presently no State Law allowing for green or natural burials except on private lands in Vermont, and there seemed to be no public green burial sites in Vermont presently. That could potentially be an issue if Ripton became the only site in Vermont to allow it as far as how much land we would/could set aside for such burials and our proposed requirements/restrictions on who can purchase plots in the Ripton cemeteries.

E) New Pricing structure – Bonnie will add information on lot sizes to match pricing that she got from other towns. Perpetual care now needs to be included in the sale price since Cemetery Commissions cannot charge a separate price for maintenance. The definition of perpetual care

used on the new Certificate of Burial Rights document will be used in our Rules and Regulations document for clarification and uniformity. We will consider adding the cost of purchase and placement of the required cornerstones, which in the past has been a responsibility of the person(s) purchasing the cemetery burial plot(s).

F, G & H not discussed at this meeting.