

Ripton Cemetery Commission Meeting August 6, 2014

In attendance: Liz Walker, Charles Billings, Bonnie Swan, Cheryl Larocque Agenda distributed to attendees. See attachment 1-1 8/6/2014.

Before the meeting came to order Cheryl discussed her research of Green or Natural Burials and stated her desire to continue to pursue it. The information gathered by Charles and presented at the last meeting which Cheryl could not attend was that there is no State Law presently allowing green or natural burials except on private lands in Vermont, but a law has been proposed at the statehouse. Charles gave Cheryl a copy of the information for her to follow up on. Cheryl thought she saw information regarding an area set aside in Brattleboro, and other information during an internet search of burial walks. Cheryl will pursue Green Burials research but at this time Ripton does not allow them. Meeting came to order at 7:30 PM.

- 1) Approve the minutes from July 2, 2014 meeting – Bonnie moved to approve July 2nd meeting minutes, seconded by Cheryl. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote. See attachment 1-2 8/6/2014.
- 2) A) Charles reported that the Ripton Selectboard has selected Short Surveying to survey the boundaries of a 1 acres addition to the Galvin cemetery; land being donated by Middlebury College.

- 2) B) Status of Christie Lafayette's grievances and questions –

i – Adding children's names to deed – Jonathan Heppell reviewed the original cemetery deed and does not see a problem in Christie's request, but suggests that the original deed be surrendered and a new Certificate of Burial Rights be issued with the names added. Bonnie will prepare 3 Cook Certificate of Burial Rights documents for Christie. Christie will need to meet Bonnie at the town office to make the changes. A copy of the surrendered deed and the new Burial Rights Certificates will be filed at the town office. Commissioners discussed setting an administration fee for making this type of change, probably \$15.00.

ii - Missing cornerstones – Bonnie found the cornerstones hidden under grass (as well as 1 Walker Billings and 1 S. DeGray corner stone). Bonnie called Christie but did not get a call back. Bonnie will mail Christie a letter telling her that the corner stone's have been uncovered, and provide her with a copy of the map showing where her other lots are located and instructions on how to get her children's names on the paperwork.

- 2) C) Lot sizes were added to the Certificate of Burial Rights for both the Cook and Galvin cemeteries, but we've decided that the purchase and placement of corner stone's should be added to the CBR document. Cost of the stones that Ripton provides and installation, and a separate price for installation of stones purchased elsewhere, should be on the Cemetery "Pricing List" and provided at the time a plot is purchased.

Action Item – Charles to compile a Cemetery Pricing List with Labor charged at \$15.00 per hour. The proposed Work Order Form also needs to include corner stone installation charges.

A motion was made by Liz to vote to use the new Cook and Galvin Certificate of Burial Rights from this time forward. Bonnie seconded the motion, vote was unanimous. Charles made copies for Bonnie to use for Lafayette's name additions.

3) A) Continued revising the Rules and Regulations document. Updated copy handed out by Charles. Bonnie provided a copy of Rules & Regulations of the Middlebury Cemetery Association for us to reference while writing the Ripton Cemetery R&R's. She also mentioned that some towns had different sextons assigned to different cemeteries.

Page 3 Section I - Definition of a "Lot" – discussed sizes and combinations for full caskets and cremation urns – Charles will write up a list of all lot sizes and provide at the September meeting.

Page 5, Section III, #5 – delete Ripton Town Clerk and change \$10.00 to \$15.00.

Page 6, Section IV - #3 – or sexton added to sentence, #5 – Burial Transit Permit substituted for Internment Form, #7 – Work Order Permit still be developed and pricing for cornerstones and installation will be added, #8 – delete

Stopped at this point, though section VIII, page 10 – Memorial Gardens - will be deleted per agreement at July 2, 2014 meeting.

B) New Pricing structure – Bonnie provided additional information on lot sizes and pricing for Salisbury, Lincoln and Middlebury. The questions used to solicit information regarded: pricing, lot sizes, caskets/cremations/occupancy, cornerstones, perpetual care, and vault regulations. Charles will make a chart of all of the information for the committee to use compare while writing our Rules and Regulations document.

C) Not discussed at this meeting

D) The proposed Work Order Form needs to include corner stone installation charges.

E) Not discussed at this meeting