

Ripton Cemetery Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2014

Ripton Town Office 7:30 PM

Members Present: Liz Walker, Charles Billings, and Bonnie Swan (initials BS, LW, CB are used in motions/votes)

Motions made/votes taken:

Moved/seconded/voted approval of minutes of 9/3/14: BS/LW/all

Moved/seconded/voted approval of Burial Rights Documents for Cook and Galvin Cemeteries with revision date of 10/1/14 added and options for cornerstones removed: BS/LW/all

Moved/seconded/voted approval to adopt the Pricing Table of lot costs and number of permitted burials per lot, with cornerstone options removed and revision date of 10/1/14 added: BS/LW/all

Moved/seconded/voted approval to adopt Ripton Cemetery Rules and Regulations document subject to completion of "work order permit" form and changes proposed at 9/6/14 and 10/1/14 meeting: BS/LW/all

Discussion:

Agenda distributed to attendees. See attachment 1-1 10/1/2014.

- 1) **Minutes** - With no amendments proposed, the September 3, 2014 minutes were approved – Bonnie moved to approve minutes, seconded by Liz. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Attachment 1-2 10/1/2014.
- 2) **Previous Business**
 - A) Galvin Cemetery – Charles reported that Alison said Short Surveying is supposed to start research of deeds at the town office soon. Charles is concerned that surveying for the 1 acre addition to the Galvin cemetery (land being donated by Middlebury College) has not begun given that winter is coming soon and the request for the survey was made months ago. Charles will ask Alison to tell Tim Short of Short Survey to get in touch with him regarding the deeds to help expedite the survey if possible.
 - B) Cook Cemetery- Liz and Charles met Tim and Perry Hanson to walk the land that the Hanson family is proposing to donate to the town for the Cook cemetery. The Hanson's will mark out the property lines. The Cemetery Commission will need to request a survey after the property is marked.
 - C) Cornerstones - To ensure we will not be losing money if we provide cornerstones, Liz made some calls to monuments companies regarding purchase; minimum #, delivery, placement/installation service, materials available and engraving charges for cornerstones.

Pricing for cornerstones and installation from companies in Bethel and Bristol were quite a bit higher than expected. Attachment 1-3 10/1/14. Bonnie suggested that Rutland companies might be more reasonable.

D) Status of Christie Lafayette's grievances and questions – Liz gave Bonnie the address for Christie at this meeting (10/1/14). Bonnie can now send Christie a letter of instructions regarding adding children's names to deed & discovery of her missing cornerstones. Bonnie will include a copy of the Cook Cemetery map for plot location.

E) Redraft of Burial Rights document – Bonnie suggested revision date be added to document(s). Charles will add revision date(s) to bottom of all forms and document(s). The Committee decided to revert back to individuals purchasing their own cornerstones and getting them installed with the Sexton's approval of location. Burial Rights document will reflect that cornerstones are not included. Sexton's charges for marking out and inspecting placement of cornerstones will be included in the price of the burial lot. It was moved/seconded/approved to adopt the document with these 2 changes: BS/LW/all.

F) Review Pricing Table of lot costs and permitted burials – Committee accepted updated information with cornerstones, carving, and installation costs of cornerstones removed. It was moved/seconded/approved to adopt the new fee schedule and permitted burials information with cornerstone options removed: BS/LW/all

G) Redraft and completion of review of Ripton Cemetery Rules and Regulations document - Continued revising the Rules and Regulations document. New copy updated since the August 6th meeting were handed out by Charles.

Page 3 Section I - Definition of a "Lot" – updated lot sizes and combinations for full caskets and cremation urns

Page 5, Section III, #4 – exception for large families added

Page 6, Section IV - #5 – Town Clerk, #6 – Town Clerk, #7 – new Work Order Form pending collection of all data

Page 9, Section VI, #10 – update from lot size Table

Page 10, Section IX, #3 – Liz will confirm with monument companies actual recommended foundation and base specs., Eliminate "Fieldstone" at the beginning of sentence 3, #5 – eliminate 1st sentence since it is not required.

Page 11, Section IX - #8 – eliminate, #10 – get rid of perpetual care in this sentence, #14 – change Sexton of Cemeteries to Cemetery Sexton.

(Request to add a statement similar to Middlebury's "No Enclosure" of lots their section 8 "The Care of Lots" to our Rules and Regulations for review at next meeting was missed in August 6th revision, address at next meeting).

Charles measured the "largest monument" in the historical section of Cook and Galvin cemeteries and incorporated it into section IX, #4.

Memorial Gardens for sprinkling cremation ashes - was deleted per agreement at July 2, 2014 meeting, but the Committee is keeping the option open with newly donated land additions to the 2 cemeteries. The Hanson's suggested that there may be an area along the driveway as it goes from the newer part of the Cook cemetery into the new land they are donating if we make a rotary drive on the donated addition. There would be no individual markers in the Memorial Gardens.

New Items – not discussed at this meeting

Vandalized memorial stone in the Cook cemetery reported by Cheryl- Bonnie found no vandalism that wasn't there previously.