

DRAFT

Ripton Cemetery Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2016

Ripton Town Office 7:30 PM

Members Present: Liz Walker, Bonnie Swan, Carole Cumming, Mar Harrison (initials LW, BS, CC, MH are used in motions/votes)

Motions made/votes taken:

Moved/seconded/voted approval of minutes of 6/1/16 meeting: BS/MH/all

Moved/seconded/voted to approve payment of Phelps invoice for changes to Galvin extension map MH/BS/all

Moved/seconded/voted to approve purchasing 2 gallons of Biocide for headstone cleaning (may pay with personal credit card and then get reimbursed) LW/CC/all

Agenda distributed to attendees:

- 1. Mowing Issues - Chris Smith joined us for a discussion about mowing equipment damage to memorials, especially historic markers made of marble. We discussed the problems caused by displaced cornerstones, overgrown plantings, decorations, and memorials and flag holders that are out of line due to varying rows sizes, mid-plot burials, or smaller cremation plots. Fallen leaves covering stones, etc. can also lead to equipment hits in the fall. Also, steep ditching on the roadside makes cutting grass difficult along the road, even with a weed whacker. We decided to halt mowing of the historic gravesites until further notice in order to determine the frequency of mowing required and the best method to use around marble monuments and difficult areas.*
- 2. Minutes from the June 1st meeting were approved.*
- 3. Phelps Engineering submitted a bill for changes made to the site design for the Galvin Cemetery Extension. Costs is still within budget. Payment was approved.*
- 4. Rules & Regulations- A copy with revisions was distributed along with drawings of plot sizes and sites for memorials on each for further discussion in light of our issues mowing plots with misaligned memorials, popping up cornerstones and plaques, decorations, etc. Adding to the problems are the small cremation lots and individual 12x4 plots that did not exist when large family plots were the norm and cemeteries were mowed by sheep, goats or non-engine mowers. A copy of the previous By Laws established by the disband Cemetery Association were reviewed regarding what was*

allowed for memorials and decorations in the past. Plot deed holders, prior to current Burial Rights Certificate holders, should have been aware of these By Laws that were in effect when they purchased their plot(s). We have heard from several who were upset when disallowed fencing, plantings, or decorations and deteriorated decorations were removed from plots this spring. Plot decorations and plantings, along with memorial and flag placement, will be included in further discussion of how to make our burial grounds easier to maintain.

5. *Maintenance Projects:*

Liz drill holes in bottom of current trash can at Cook.

Liz call Livingstone's regarding whether Christina Anderson has purchased cornerstones for her father's plot, which are required before the memorial can be installed.

Liz- Look up any listing of burials at Gee cemetery for Mar.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next monthly meeting: Wednesday August 3, 2016, 7:30 PM Ripton Town Office