

## Minutes Cemetery Trustees Meeting September 11, 2017

Present: Dana van der Bijl, Chair  
Don Watts  
Maureen Mann, Secretary

Questions arose over the status of dealing with the vandalism at Sand Hill Cemetery. The trustees have not heard back from the Police Department.

Watts brought up the matter of tree trimming at Old Center Cemetery. He feels maintenance should be concentrated on those cemeteries the town is already caring for. Mann expressed concern that other town-owned cemeteries are not receiving care, and some non-town-owned cemeteries are receiving care. She also questioned where the funding was coming from to maintain those currently being maintained.

Morrison Cemetery is town owned and receiving care.  
Old Center Cemetery is town owned and receiving care.  
Parade Cemetery is town owned and receiving care.  
Fellows-Sanborn is town owned and receiving care.  
(Deacon) Haynes is not town owned but is receiving care. Town owns adjacent land.  
Tilton is not town owned but is receiving care.  
Ladd is not town owned but is receiving care.  
Philbrick is not town owned but is receiving care.  
Goodhue(Poor Farm) is town owned but is not receiving care.  
Dowst Cate is town owned but is not receiving care.

Old Center, Haynes and Dowst Cate all have problem trees which must be dealt with. Mark Young will be asked to assess the problems at the three cemeteries, determine what must be done and get estimates for the work. Any firm employed must be insured. The Trustees agreed to spend up to \$4000 for tree work. Any excess will be used on Dowst Cate and Poor Farm.

Van der Bijl provided information on Adopt a Cemetery programs in Wakefield and Milton. Because of the large number of private cemeteries in Deerfield help will be needed to reclaim and maintain many of them. Establishing a Friends of the Cemeteries, similar to Friends of the Library, was also discussed.

Another option discussed was to turn control of the cemeteries over to the Select Board. Funds for the cemeteries must come from that Board and the Trustees of the Trust Fund manage any cemetery funds.

Each trustee chose a priority to work on. Watts selected tree work. [See above] Mann selected clarifying where cemetery funding comes from [In addition to the \$10,000 budgeted by the town] and how it is allocated. Van der Bijl agreed with Mann's priorities.

The next meeting will be on Monday, September 18, to work on the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mann