

Meeting of the Deerfield, New Hampshire Cemetery Trustees

DRAFT MINUTES

July 12, 2019

Present: Maureen Mann, Dana van der Bijl, Paul Murphy, Rick Druckenmiller, Tina St. Peter, and Sam White (alternate)

Meeting was called to order at 8:33 am.

No public was present for comments.

Entered into non-public session at 8:35 am under RSA 91-A:3, I-C. No action was taken. Returned to public session at 9:10 am.

The board discussed the **placement of flags** by scouts and other organizations. It is a problem for the mowers to have to pick them up and replace them. Tina will discuss with the American Legion/Scouts/Volunteer Fire Department to see if they can place the flags so they are touching the gravestones.

The trustees would like to recognize how helpful **Pete LeMay** has been. With the absence of former superintendent Mark Young, our trustees have been wearing many hats, and Pete has been a lifesaver. **Thanks, Pete!**

Budgeting:

It was decided that a new cemetery superintendent should be hired to replace Mark Young. The cemetery trustees have been filling in, but there should be someone outside the board doing these jobs. It will cause an increase in the Superintendent line of the budget, but it would be impossible to replace Mark Young for the current amount of \$1600/year.

The new budget numbers are:

Superintendent	\$5,000
Tree Care	\$10,000
Contractors	\$25,000
Dues	\$100
Supplies	\$1,000
Meetings/Training	\$300
Grants	\$1

TOTAL BUDGET \$41,401

The board voted unanimously to submit these amounts in the budget.

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New Business:

Trust Funds – There are some trust funds that are costing us money to keep open. Maureen will ask Glenn Meyers (Trustee of the Trust Funds) to look into closing these funds.

The board discussed the possibility of **transferring the duties of the Cemetery Trustees to the Board of Selectmen**. So much time is spent dealing with administrative issues that there is no time to do much real work with the cemeteries. It is the feeling of the current board that if the budgeting/dealing with the trust funds and maintenance were overseen by the select board, the trustees could focus on protecting, preserving, and documenting the cemeteries in Deerfield.

Dana moved (seconded by Paul) that we develop and submit a warrant article pursuant to **RSA 289:6, II-a**, which will read, "**Shall we delegate the duties and responsibilities of the cemetery trustees to the Board of Selectmen?**"

According to the aforementioned RSA, *"any town with a traditional town meeting form of government may adopt by a vote of the town meeting to have the board of selectmen serve for the term of elected office as the cemetery trustees."*

The **board voted unanimously to move forward** with the submission of this warrant article.

Paul Murphy will continue taking care of the maintenance of **Haynes Cemetery**.

Tina St. Peter moved that we vote to **acquire signage for the cemeteries** to clearly state the rules. Dana seconded. Unanimous vote. It was decided that Old Center Cemetery would be first, and then Morrison Cemetery. Dana will take on this project and touch base with the other trustees when a draft is ready.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 am

Respectfully Submitted by Dana van der Bijl, Secretary