
DURHAM CEMETERY COMPANY

March 5, 2008

Minutes

President Hugh Curley called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. in the Durham Town Hall Meeting Room.

Officers and Directors Present: Hugh Curley, Richard Olsen, Bob Atwell, Greg Burritt, Kim Garvis, Laura Francis, Barbara Olsen, Simone Howe, Tom Palmieri, Dolores Caturano, Peg Atwell, Ken Jay.

Historical Society Presentation

With no objections from the members, Hugh suggested the agenda order be changed to allow the Historical Society to make its presentation first. Sarah Atwell, President of the Durham Historical Society, reviewed the renovation project of the Centre Schoolhouse. Sarah reported the Centre School was used (look in whited book) from 1775-1923 and was saved from demolition by the Historical Society. Restoration has been ongoing since 1977. To date, the electrical system, duct work, lighting, insulation and the heat/fire detection system has been completed. The Historical Society is trying to raise funds to complete the second floor; install central heating, bathroom and kitchenette. Various organizations have asked to use the Centre School as a meeting room. Sarah added the Historical Society has approached several town organizations for funding. The only funding received thus far has been from membership fees, personal donations and a few fundraisers.

Dick Olsen suggested the society contact Al Fritts who may be able to help with an alarm system.

Hugh thanked the Historical Society for its presentation. Having reviewed the Articles of Incorporation, Hugh reported there was really no leeway to allow the Durham Cemetery Company to make a donation to the Durham Historical Society.

Secretary's Report:

Thank you notes were sent to Lew Hinman and Art Bielefield for their years of service to the Durham Cemetery Company. A thank you note was also sent to the Wenzels for the use of their water during the Reverend Nathaniel Chauncey crypt reconstruction in the old cemetery. Get well cards were sent to Bob Atwell and Alma Hinman. Letters were sent to: John West regarding the stone he wants to use for a marker, and a letter was sent to Gene Chiapetta, Chairman of the Durham Fair Association regarding permission to plant a garden by the west gate of the cemetery in back of Town Hall. The schedule of 2008 meetings was submitted to the Town Clerk's office.

A motion was made by Tom Palmieri, seconded by Dick Olsen to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2007 meeting as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Sexton's Report:

There was one cremation, three burials and seven lots sold at Mica Hill Cemetery. There was one cremation at Center Cemetery. Fall clean ups were completed at all three cemeteries. The overhanging tree branches from the rear wood line at Center Cemetery were cut and removed. A dead fallen tree at Mica Hill Cemetery was cut and removed. Bamboo weeds growing at the rear of the Main Street Cemetery were cut back. Christmas decorations will be removed from graves on April 1st and settled graves will be repaired as soon as possible.

The secretary was asked to put a notice in the Town Times for removal of all decorations by April 1st.

Ken expressed concern about the job being done by Hazelwood as far as adequately filling in the graves. The lack of fill around the graves is leaving holes that could be a liability. Ken will bring in soil to fill the holes.

Discussion continued relative to an all weather site for dumping and pick up, maintenance area, etc. Concern expressed again by some members about Hazelwood. The sexton shouldn't have to finish the job or fix problems left by Hazelwood.

Question asked about the difference between a cremation and urn vault. Ken answered, an urn vault requires much more work than a cremation. The urn vault is about the same size as an infant burial, therefore, the same price.

Motion made by Dick Olsen, seconded by Dolores Caturano to approve the Sexton's Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Tom reported dividend interest is still coming in at an adequate rate. Though money market rates are down, the income is still well within range to generate enough income to cover expenses. Tom is working with the advisors, two new funds were bought and commissions paid. Though the overall portfolio has deteriorated, money is still being generated to cover expenses. Tom added we will continue to hold on to the funds that are still generating adequate dividends.

A motion was made by Barbara Olsen, and seconded by Greg Burritt to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

A, Historical Society Presentation – made at the beginning of the meeting.

B, Update on Grevers & Ward – Hugh presented the Grever & Ward Development Plan for the Mica Hill Cemetery. The new addition will provide approximately 2,150 gravesites which means the capacity will not be met for many decades. The calculations were based on full size burials. If cremations are figured in the capacity would be even greater.

Discussion continued about the three phases of development, including grading, drainage plans, surplus soil and the cost of installing the new entrance. More investigation is needed relative to the subsurface and whether or not there is ledge and water present. The current plan may need to be altered depending on the subsurface conditions.

Members agreed the planned road network is lengthy and expensive, and does not need to be done all at once. Hugh and Ken offered to walk the area with the maps and take measurements to determine the maximum width of the road.

Test hole excavation needs to be done to determine if all the land is useable for gravesites. If bedrock is present there will be fewer gravesites available for purchase. Tom cautioned that whatever the Cemetery Company decides to do with the Mica Hill Development Plan, expenses should not draw the fund under the level that is needed to generate the income needed to cover yearly operating expenses.

Hugh will follow up with Grever & Ward to obtain more definitive estimates of the cost for each phase, and the cost of the road network.

- C. Spring Clean Up – Greg will check the hedges for needed trimming and weeding. Barbara and Greg found more ground cover at the entrance which needs to be cleaned. Hedges should be in good shape.

Old Business

1. John West request. Kim provided additional information from the West family including a sample of the stone. Jelle de Boer, Geology Department, Wesleyan University, determined the rock to be a piece of conglomerate, Pennsylvanian age, ca 300 million years old, that should hold up well as a gravestone.

Members discussed the Rules and Regulations of the Durham Cemetery Company and the specificity of same which does not really allow for any deviation regarding headstone makeup. It was generally agreed that approval of this request would set a precedent for future requests.

Motion by Tom Palmieri, seconded by Greg Burritt to deny John West's request to use the stone found on the beach as a headstone. The stone, as identified by Jelle de boer, Geology Department, Wesleyan University, does not conform to the established regulations of the Durham Cemetery Company. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Vacancies. Rob Raney spends a lot of time traveling and Mr. Baris cannot make a commitment at this time. Suggestions made to contact other Curtis family members, i.e. Doreen Raney and Tim McKennan (Art Goddard's son-in-law) to determine their interest in serving on the Durham Cemetery Company.

New Business

1. Hugh reported on the receipt of an unexpected donation from the Durham Manufacturing Company in the amount of \$200. After a brief discussion, members decided to use this donation for additional plantings.

Motion by Dick Olsen, seconded by Hugh Curley, to allocate up to \$400, including the \$200 donation from the Durham Manufacturing Company, for additional spring plantings. With Greg Burritt abstaining and all remaining affirmative votes, the motion passed.

2. Peg Atwell received a note from Lorrie Chace regarding a presentation about the cemetery. A program is tentatively planned for October. Peg thought it would be nice if some Cemetery members attended the presentation. Hugh suggested adding an

accounting of the restoration of the "Chauncey" gravesite. Elven Riggles has offered to do a dedication of the gravesite when the Cemetery Company is ready.

3. Bob reported there are four stones in the Town Hall Cemetery needing some repair. Tom responded that as of June 30th all funds will have been spent. No new work can begin until July 1st.

Adjourn: Motion by Dolores Caturano seconded by several to adjourn at 9:30 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Garvis
Secretary