

Durham Cemetery Company

May 7, 2008

Minutes

President Hugh Curley called the meeting to order at 7:35 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, Mary DiMella, Tom Palmieri, Dolores Caturano, Peg Atwell, Ken Jay.

Secretary's Report:

A notice was placed in the Town Times, March 28, 2008 edition, for removal of all decorations by April 1st. A note was sent to all members informing them of Alma Hinman's passing and the date of her memorial service. On behalf of the Cemetery Company, a sympathy card was sent to Lew Hinman. A letter was sent to Jean Caffrey along with the cemetery regulations regarding monument size, etc. A letter was sent to John West regarding the vote to deny his request to use the beach stone for a headstone. A letter of thanks was sent to Durham Manufacturing for the unexpected donation of \$200, and a letter was sent to the Durham Historical Society thanking them for their presentation and advising of the inability of the Cemetery Company to make a donation.

Corrections to the March 5, 2008 minutes as follows:

- 1) Page 3, Old Business, subparagraph 2: "Tom McKennan should be **Tom McKenna**."
- 2) Page 4, subparagraph 3: Delete last two sentences, paragraph to read as follows: "**Bob reported there are four stones in the Town Hall Cemetery needing some repair.**"

Motion by Dick Olsen, seconded by Barbara Olsen to approve March 5, 2008 minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

Sexton's Report:

There was one cremation, one urn vault cremation, and one burial at Center Cemetery. There were two lots sold at Mica Hill Cemetery. All Christmas decorations were removed from graves, and spring clean ups were performed at all three cemeteries. Settled graves were filled and reseeded. Lawn mowing has begun at all three cemeteries.

Ken reported that Hazelwood caused damage in the Old Cemetery in back of Town Hall. Headstones were run over (DeSarro's stone) and deep ruts made.

Motion made by Simone Howe, seconded by Tom Palmieri to approve the Sexton's Report as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

RECEIVED: 5-15-08 TIME: 1:20 PM

Kim Garvis, Town Clerk

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK, DURHAM, CONNECTICUT

Treasurer's Report:

Tom reported business as usual. Significant amount of money in the money market. Adequate income generated to meet operational expenses. There was some activity with the purchase of three corporate bonds. These are non-callable bonds with expiration dates of 2111, 2112 and 2113. May look into putting \$150,000 to \$200,000 into managed accounts depending on what work the Cemetery Company decides to put into Mica Hill. Tom commented we still need to be cautious, the market remains volatile.

Motion by Laura Francis, seconded by Greg Burritt to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report:

A. Grever & Ward

Chairman Curley reviewed Grever & Ward plans. The measurements he and Ken took indicate a 16 foot road is possible. Discussion continued regarding the possibility of the town's engineer being able to spec out improvements to the road. Laura responded services of the town engineer could be used for this project, however, she asked how critical this project is because prices are very high right now.

Any planning for new sections should allow for the future road as shown on the Grever & Ward map. Concerns expressed by members, relative to expansion of the road, closeness of graves, trees at the entrances, etc. Hugh and Ken mentioned there is enough room for road expansion and no graves will be affected. There were several questions about the road expansion: a) can existing pavement be reused; b) Mary stated the town put in the road at Mica Hill; c) some members believe improvements to the road should be made at the expense of the cemetery, not the town; d) there are drainage issues, e) test holes need to be dug, etc.

It was agreed that there is at least a 5-7 year supply of gravesites and if the trend in cremations continues, there would be an even longer supply of graves. It was generally agreed that it will be quite costly to put in the new road; nothing needs to be done right now; the proposed plan could be implemented in stages as long as allowances are made for future road improvements. Expansions can be made from the current road first.

Hugh reported that cremations account for 30% of the burials in Connecticut at the present time and that in five years that number is expected to increase to 40%. At that rate the expansions to the cemetery will last for many decades. He added the American Cemetery Magazine is a good resource for keeping up with what's going on in the cemetery industry.

Discussion turned to the Town Hall Cemetery. Road repair needs to be done. Ken mentioned the reverse entrance is causing problems. It is much harder to maneuver entering by the south driveway and also the ability to negotiate the first curve without hitting a piece of granite is a challenge. Peg agreed it is very difficult driving in the opposite way. Can the signs be reversed back to the original entrance and exit? Can Ken remove the piece of granite?

Members discussed the problem with remaining burial sites in the Town Hall Cemetery. Mary is concerned because her family has six gravesites in this cemetery. Ken stated

serious consideration should be given to only allowing cremation burials for any remaining burial sites. He stated access rows started being used as burial sites, so now some graves will need to be dug by hand because the machines can't get in to dig anymore. Mary is concerned about allowing only cremations. Tom stated if hand digging needs to be done, then the family will have to pay for this. Members generally agreed that the rules for burials in the Town Hall Cemetery shouldn't be changed in mid-stream. Laura stated type of burial has been done on a case by case basis.

Motion by Dolores Caturano, seconded by Hugh Curley and Barbara Olsen to request the Board of Selectmen reverse the signs back to the original Entrance and Exit. With one in opposition the chairman declared the motion passed.

B. Board of Directors Membership

Hugh reported Jerry Brown is interested in joining the Durham Cemetery Company. He is associated with Swan Funeral Home and has been in the business for 30 years. The Durham Cemetery Company could benefit from his expertise. Laura added he has had an interest in joining for quite a while. Ken reported Tim McKenna is not interested in joining, however, his wife Lynn is interested in becoming a member. Hugh will call Lynn to follow up.

Motion by Hugh Curley, seconded by Simone Howe to nominate Jerry Brown to fill the 2008 vacancy and Lynn McKenna to fill the 2010 vacancy. Vote pending confirmation of interest of both Jerry and Lynn. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- 1) Francis Miller will be down this week or next to complete the Chauncey gravesite renovations. Discussion about the re-dedication of the Chauncey monument. Elven Riggles is interested in participating in this dedication. Suggestion made this dedication take place after July 1st.
- 2) Mary complimented the job Kim is doing as secretary. Mary was not at the last meeting but commented she would have been in favor of allowing the West's to use the old beach stone. She hopes the DCC doesn't get too regimented. The regulations can be changed. Mary added all members should visit Mica Hill now because it is beautiful at this time of the year.
- 3) Dolores reported on additional plantings. The spirea is ready to be picked up from Garden Acres. May 15th is tentative date for planting. This date is good for Dolores and Barbara, Greg will check his schedule. Dolores will send the invoice to Tom and the cost should be under \$400. Tom asked Dolores to remind Garden Acres that the DCC is tax exempt.

New Business:

- 1) Kim reported that Anton Zimmer called asking if he could sell his lots back to the Cemetery Company. He lives in Vermont now and is planning to be buried there. He has already scheduled Hicks Memorial Service (a New York monument company) to remove the

headstone on May 25th. Kim told Anton she would call him after the meeting tonight to go over the details.

Motion by Simone Howe, seconded by several to allow Anton Zimmer to sell his cemetery lots 23A and 23B back to the Durham Cemetery Company and allow removal of the headstone with the requirement that the monument company call Ken Jay before, and on arrival, to ascertain if conditions are suitable for the removal of the headstones. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2) Bob stated more time needs to be dedicated to the cemetery behind Town Hall. Discussion regarding assessment of headstones and resetting. Laura shared an email from Ty Tryon, Board of Director member of the Ancient Burying Ground Association. He has reset and straightened numerous stones using an improved method of resetting. He is also available to discuss challenges in old cemetery conservation and preservation.

Motion by Barbara Olsen, seconded by Dolores Caturano to request assessment and proposal regarding the Town Hall Cemetery from Ty Tryon. The motion passed unanimously.

- 3) Members discussed donation in Alma Hinman's memory. Mary stated this is not a policy for a non-member. Greg mentioned some trees are in need of replacement, perhaps a tree could be planted in her memory. Members generally agreed that no plaque should be placed on the tree but that Lew could be informed of this and it would be in the DCC records that a tree was planted in Alma's memory.

Motion by Barbara Olsen, seconded by Simone Howe to plant a tree in Alma Hinman's memory honoring the service of Lew and Alma to the town of Durham. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4) Ken presented his budget for the next year. With a 3% increase for Sexton duties and a 3.5% increase for maintenance, Ken's monthly budget is \$2,052.49 or \$24,629.93 for the new year.

Motion by Peg Atwell, seconded by Dolores Caturano to approve Sexton's budget with a 3% increase in Sexton duties and a 3.5% increase in maintenance, for a monthly fee of \$2,052.49 and a yearly total of \$24,629.93. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: Motion by several and seconded by several to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Garvis
Secretary