

DURHAM CEMETERY COMPANY

March 3, 2010

MINUTES

President Gerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Durham Town Hall third floor meeting room.

Officers and Directors Present: Mary DiMella, Tom Palmieri, Dolores Caturano, Peg Atwell, Gerry Brown, Dick Olsen, Bob Atwell, Greg Burritt, Kim Garvis, Barbara Olsen, Simone Howe,

Also Present: Ken Jay, Andy "Lawrence" Wimler.

Secretary's Report: September 2, 2009 minutes were corrected and filed with the town clerk's office. All deeds have been processed, mailed and cemetery maps notated. HMIS sent system update CDs and update will be done by month's end.

Mr. Wimler came in to confirm that his two burial plots were double depth. The deed only mentions two burial plots and the computer system only shows two burial plots. There is no mention of double depth graves in any of the records.

The clean up notice has been emailed to the Town Times.

Motion by Tom Palmieri, seconded by Dolores Caturano to accept the secretary's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Bob Atwell, seconded by Tom Palmieri to accept minutes of the November meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Sexton's Report:

Sexton's Report for the period ending 3-2-2010: There were seven lots sold at Mica Hill Cemetery. There were four burials, two urn vault cremation burials, and five regular cremation burials at Mica Hill Cemetery. Fall clean ups were completed at all three cemeteries. New flags were installed at Center and Mica Hill Cemetery. Filling of settled graves and lawn repairs will be started as soon as weather permits.

Motion by Dolores Caturano, seconded by Greg Burritt to accept the sexton's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts are fairly stable and no outstanding issues. Dividend income still projected to be enough to cover expenses. The portfolio has recovered, however the financial advisor was concerned with dividend payout for HRPT. Therefore HRPT sold and Genuine Parts bought in its place. There is still enough money in cash to purchase another stock in the future if a good stock comes along.

Motion by Gerry Brown, seconded by Greg Burritt to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report:

1. Al Johnson passed away before a decision could be made to bury his wife's ashes in the back of Center Cemetery by the back gate. Bob mentioned there is a roadway near the back gate that is no longer used. A cremains burial site about 50' by 20' could be set up near that back gate. Gerry will talk to Lynn Johnson about her interest in burying her parent's cremains at the back gate in Center Cemetery.
2. Andy Wimler was present to discuss the status of two graves he purchased. He stated Bob White was as "honest as the day is long" and Bob White told him the two graves he bought were both double depth. He is willing to pay the extra fee for digging the extra depth. The headstones are already in place. Mary DiMella commented there were some planned double depth graves at one time, but because of the rock problem it was decided not to sell anymore double depth graves. Andy added Doolittle Funeral Home is taking care of all of the funeral arrangements. Gerry suggested the vault be dug now to find out if a double depth grave is feasible and the double depth vault set in place.

Motion by Barbara Olsen, seconded by Simone Howe to allow two double depth graves for Andy "Lawrence" Wimler; Center Lot 212 A & B. Corrected deed to be issued to Mr. Wimler. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Hazelwood**: Discussion of the haphazard way Hazelwood has been digging and filling the graves. Ken is unable to take on this duty because he does not have the proper equipment. Tom stated Seabreeze Septic, Marty Rochette, digs foundations, has the proper equipment and is interested in digging graves. Ken states Randy Whitehouse has all the necessary equipment and should be asked if he's interested in digging graves.

Ken stated Hazelwood has not been held accountable for the work that has not been done properly. He has been fixing Hazelwood's mistakes. Gerry asked what are Hazelwood's responsibilities and Ken answered the complete job of digging the grave, and filling in the grave. A letter should be drafted and sent to Hazelwood. Question asked if this has been an ongoing problem. Ken replied there was not a problem in the beginning but this year, in particular, serious damage was done. Part of the problem is no area to store the dirt that is removed when digging the grave. The dirt is carted away and then there is no available dirt to do the fill-ins when necessary. Discussion ensued about where to store the dirt. There is an area at Mica Hill that needs fills any way, perhaps this would be a good place to dump the dirt. Much discussion about drafting a strongly worded letter to Hazelwood expressing dissatisfaction with the work that has been done over the past couple of years and request that repairs be made including filling in the ruts, backfilling around graves, closing the graves in a manner that does not make it dangerous for family members coming back to visit the graves. It was agreed by the members that Hazelwood should be given one more chance to prove themselves. Mary added that her brother was buried recently at Mica Hill and not only was the situation dangerous because of the holes, but it was unsightly as well. Members agreed that Hazelwood should be given until April 15, 2010 to make all requested repairs at which time a determination will be made to keep them on or hire another contractor. It was agreed that Gerry should be the contact person regarding this issue.

Motion by Mary DiMella, seconded by Tom Palmieri to send a strongly worded letter to Hazelwood expressing Durham Cemetery Company's dissatisfaction and request that repairs be completed including filling in ruts, backfilling around graves, closing the graves in a manner that does not present a hazardous situation for people (family members) coming back to visit the grave. Required recheck be completed two weeks after the burial to make sure additional filling of further settlement of graves is completed. Re-seeding and haying of burial area, repairs of damage caused from recent burials at Mica Hill required to be completed by April 15th. A designated area at Mica Hill for dumping of materials from graves will be determined. With Greg Burritt in opposition, the motion passed.

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the President's report.

Old Business

Budget and Grave Stone Restoration Project: Gerry stated he spoke with Laura Francis, First Selectman about the budget for grave stone restorations and the decision was made, not to ask for the money this budget year. Discussion about fallen stones in the Center Cemetery; the subcommittee that was formed to look at old stones to determine order of the restoration and stone repair in general. Peg and Bob reported there are fallen stones in the Center Cemetery that need to be reset. Barbara stated this money is for the Old Cemetery. Tom clarified that the money being budgeted for stone repair is specifically for "historically significant" stones and that we should not spend money just to spend it. He added there is \$11,300 remaining in this line item. Discussion continued that the Cemetery Company can go ahead with stone repair without town funds. Ken will work with Bob to make repairs and reset of stones in Center Cemetery. The subcommittee: Barbara Olsen, Simone Howe, Bob Atwell and Greg Burritt will meet to discuss old stones. Barbara will call Francis Miller to get the list of stones originally determined to be in most need of repair. The only stone on the original list of five that was repaired was the Chauncey crypt.

Assistant Treasurer: Discussion about assistant treasurer but still no one interested. Tom stated that Tom Anderson can help in a pinch.

Tree Trimming: Tree trimming is complete at Mica Hill and everyone urged to go for a visit during the spring bloom.

New Business:

Non-attending members: Discussion about contacting the non-attending members to determine if they are still interested in serving on the board. Ken Jay will contact Ken DeVito asking him to attend the next meeting to determine his interest in serving. Dolores stated she may know of someone interested in serving on the board.

Motion by Gerry Brown, seconded by Greg Burritt, to send letters to non-attending members to determine their interest in continuing to serve on the Durham Cemetery Company board. Motion passed unanimously.

Repair fence at the Old Cemetery: Discussion regarding the split rail fence at the Old Cemetery that is in need of repair. Ken stated he will get the post and fix the fence.

Motion by Tom Palmieri, seconded by Barbara Olsen, that repairs be made to the fence at the Old Cemetery. Motion passed unanimously.

Block 7: Greg will begin work on Block 7 at Mica Hill. He will need some money for plantings and trees – something other than crab or cherry. Some work needs to be done at the entrance as well. Mulch is free because that is provided by the town.

Motion made, seconded and passed to allow Greg to spend up to \$500 for plantings and trees in Block 7 of Mica Hill Cemetery. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Garvis, Secretary