

DURHAM CEMETERY COMPANY

May 5, 2010

Minutes

President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm 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, Laura Francis, Barbara Olsen, Simone Howe.

Others Present: Ken Jay, Irene Roberts, George Roberts, Ken DiVito.

Secretary's Report: March minutes filed with the Town Clerk's office. All deeds have been processed, mailed and cemetery maps notated. The HMIS system software update has been installed. A corrected deed was issued to the Wimlers indicating their graves are double depth and the Cemetery Deed book was updated as well. Letters were drafted and sent to Hazelwood, Phyllis Naples-Valenti and Lynn McKenna. Two new forms were created.

Mrs. Lynch called to ask permission to put a solar light in the planter by her son's grave. She is also upset that her son's grave has settled and the grass is brown and sparse instead of green like the rest of the graves at Mica Hill. It has been a year-and-a-half since they buried their son and they request the grave be filled in and seeded.

Discussion regarding allowing solar lights, etc. Laura stated former member, Hugh Curley, had predicted that the Durham Cemetery Company might start receiving unusual requests. Times have changed. Years ago funerals were traditional, but today people are more expressive and their funerals and graves are personalized with pictures and even videos, toys and child related items if a young child is buried. Comments made by a few members that the DCC needs to be sensitive to the family members and emotional parents who may put items on the graves that do not meet the regulations. Suggestion made to review the DCC regulations. President Brown will review regulations from other cemeteries and report his findings at the September meeting.

Discussion regarding two new forms: 1) Application For Permission to Open Grave/Crypt, and 2) Assignment of Burial Rights. Two typos will be corrected by the secretary. These forms will be linked to the Cemetery page on the town website and the secretary will email both forms to Doolittle and Biega Funeral Homes.

Motion by Tom Palmieri, seconded by Laura Francis to accept the secretary's report. On a voice vote with none in opposition the President declared the motion passed.

Motion by Dick Olsen, seconded by Tom Palmieri to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting as presented. On a voice vote with none in opposition and one abstention (Laura Francis), the President declared the motion passed.

Public Comment: Irene and George Roberts were present at tonight's meeting. They stated they wrote a letter a while ago to the DCC about the overgrowth at Mica Hill Cemetery. The rhododendron plants are huge and falling over the driveway. They visited the Mica Hill Cemetery a couple of days ago and the overgrowth is heavy particularly along the south end of the stone wall. The plants are actually crowding around the headstones. Mr. Roberts offered to do some pruning. President Brown responded that this will be taken care of by the appropriate personnel.

Ken stated he and Greg recently discussed, the need to pull out the rhododendrons and to make room for new plantings. In the meantime, pruning can be done. Tom added that he has been very vocal in the past about the trees and still believes some trees need to be removed. Gerry commented that the Cemetery Directors should make site visits to Mica Hill and Center Cemeteries once in the spring and once in the fall to walk the grounds to determine what needs to be done relative to plantings and repair of fallen and broken headstones. Members agreed it is the responsibility of the DCC as stewards of the town cemeteries to make sure the cemeteries are maintained and cared for in the appropriate way. Several members commented that for many years the DCC was fortunate to have Bob White and Lew Hinman who walked the cemeteries every week and made repairs to stones as needed. They also did trimming on a regular basis.

Site inspection scheduled for May 20, 2010. Members to meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Center Cemetery (Town Hall). The secretary will submit an agenda notice to the Town Clerk's office for the Site Walk.

Sexton's Report: Sexton's Report for the period ending May 4, 2010. There were three lots sold at Mica Hill Cemetery. There were three burials at Mica Hill Cemetery. There was one burial and one cremation burial at Center Cemetery. Christmas decorations were removed in April. All three cemeteries have been mowed, the split rail fence at the Old Main Street Cemetery has been repaired, and leaning stones in the Center Cemetery will be re-set by the end of June. Peg mentioned another stone is falling and one of the pink foot stones for the Newton family needs resetting. Also the Gulielmetti monument is leaning. There was discussion about the continuing problem with headstones in the Center Cemetery. Mary commented that the foundations in Center Cemetery may not have been set to the required standards since we are having ongoing problems with these stones.

Motion by Tom Palmieri, seconded by a few to accept the sexton's report. On a voice vote with none in opposition, the President declared the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Reimbursement in the amount of \$5.72 to the town for postage. Tom reported that a large amount of the budgeted money has been spent on

maintenance at Mica Hill Cemetery, i.e. trees, lighting and Greg's work, etc. Some money was also spent on the Old Cemetery for the fence repair and flag pole. Other than that expenditures are consistent, i.e. insurance, office supplies. Dividends and interest are stable. The portfolio is the same as reported at the last meeting with no new purchases or sale of stock.

Motion by Gerry Brown, seconded by Greg Burritt to accept the treasurer's report as presented. On a voice vote with none in opposition the President declared the motion passed.

President's Report

- a. Membership: Discussion of membership and non-attending members. Letters were sent to Phyllis and Lynne to determine their interest in continuing to serve on the board. Tom commented that Phyllis will not continue as a member. Gerry has not had a response from Lynne. Official resignation letters are needed from Phyllis and Lynne. The secretary will send forms for these members to complete and return. New members can be appointed once the DCC is officially notified of the resignations.

Ken DiVito was present at tonight's meeting and expressed interest in serving on the board.

Motion by Laura Francis, seconded by Tom Palmieri, to appoint Ken Divito to fill the vacancy created by Hugh Curley's resignation, term to expire 2011. On a voice vote with none in opposition the President declared the motion passed.

- b. Hazelwood: Tom and Gerry both spoke with Pete Hazelwood, and reported that Mr. Hazelwood was upset that the DCC was not happy with their service. Ken met with Pete and Steve Hazelwood and in their defense, he explained that, for years, Bob White and Lew Hinman visited the cemeteries soon after burials to fix the settling, etc. Hazelwood said that the settling was always taken care of by the DCC members. Members agreed the situation is different now and the grave fill-ins and re-seeding need to be done by Hazelwood. Ken stated that after the recent Weckesser burial Hazelwood returned to take care of the grave settling. Weather conditions, i.e. heavy rains, etc. causes repeated settling and therefore it may take three visits to complete the fill-ins properly.

Gerry commented that Hazelwood is being paid to do the complete job. It was agreed that Hazelwood will be contacted to come back to refill graves when settling is noticed. Hazelwood did respond positively to the DCC's request to improve the maintenance of grave sites. The suggestion was made to invite Hazelwood to the annual spring and fall site walks. Tom added that a few weeks ago Hazelwood did a burial in Center Cemetery and they did a very good job under difficult weather conditions. Tom added that his conversation with Hazelwood was positive, professional and they showed sincere concern.

Members agreed to stay with Hazelwood and asked that Ken contact Hazelwood as fill-ins are needed.

- c. Stones: Gerry stated money needs to be allocated for stone repair in Center Cemetery. There are many broken and/or leaning stones. Discussion about possible solutions such as salvaging pieces of stones and using the name portion as a flush stone marker. Suggestion made that a determination be made during the site walk as to which headstones need to be fixed.

Ken added that Marlin Wert recently bought some lots at Mica Hill Cemetery and he wants to install flush markers with the writing reversed. Members agreed that grave owners can set up the engravings on the stones as they wish.

Motion by Tom Palmieri, seconded by Simone Howe to accept the President's report. On a voice vote with none in opposition the President declared the motion passed.

Old Business

- a. Cremation Garden – Center Cemetery: Lynn Johnson will be burying her parent's cremains in the Center Cemetery in August. She had not known about her father's wish to bury her mother's ashes near the fairgrounds and she is happy that she can bury both of her parents in the cremain garden. Ken and Gerry will determine the location for these burials.

New Business

- a. Bylaws Review: Suggestion made to amend the Bylaws to include at least one site walk per year by the Directors to inspect Mica Hill and Center Cemetery.
- b. Miscellaneous: Tom brought up the Memorial weekend "Bombfest" concert on the fair grounds. For added security, the fair wants to put up concert lights just outside the Center Cemetery to shine towards the fair ground. Laura will address this issue at the Public Safety briefing for the concert.

Adjourn: A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Garvis
Secretary