

Durham Cemetery Company

March 4, 2009

REVISED MINUTES

(Revisions shown in bold, underlined italics)

President Hugh Curley called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. in the Durham Town Hall third floor meeting room.

Officers and Directors Present: Greg Burritt, Kim Garvis, Barbara Olsen, Tom Palmieri, Dolores Caturano, Peg Atwell, Hugh Curley, Gerald Brown, Richard Olsen, Ken Jay.

Secretary's Report: All deeds have been processed and mailed. Cemetery maps have been notated. A letter and reimbursement check for \$1,000 was mailed to the Steiners for the buyback of Block 6, Lots 65 and 66. The Steiners were asked to return the original deed which they have done. These lots have been returned to inventory. Minutes of the November meeting have been filed with the Town Clerk's office and copied into the Durham Cemetery Minute book. A thank you note was sent to Durham Manufacturing for their unexpected donation of \$200. Information from the Atwell's work on headstones was typed and sent to the members. Ann Shephardson's booklet was copied and sent to members.

Motion by Dick Olsen, seconded by Greg Burritt to accept the secretary's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Tom Palmieri, seconded by Greg Burritt to accept minutes of the November 6, 2008 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Sexton's Report: Sexton's Report for the period ending 3-3-09. There was one burial, one urn vault cremation and four regular cremations at Mica Hill Cemetery. Three lots were sold at Mica Hill. Fall leaf clean ups were completed at all three cemeteries. Spring clean-ups and removal of Christmas Decorations will begin by April 1st.

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

Treasurer's Report: The first six months produced enough revenue to cover expenses. There was a \$200 loss in revenue because rock was hit during one of the burials. Income from **dividends and interest** for the first six months is below what was earned during the same period last year. Dividends and stock prices continue to drop, however, income for the remaining six months should be enough to cover expenses. Less money was spent on Mica Hill Cemetery this year because Greg did a lot of the heavy work that needed to be done last year. A couple of small stock purchases were made, otherwise, holdings remain the same.

Motion by Hugh Curley, seconded by Peg Atwell to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report:

Cemetery Signs: Hugh thanked Dolores for her work on the cemetery signs. The new signs look very nice. A new "Rules" sign needs to be installed. Dolores reported that any changes to content of the Rules Sign needs to be determined soon. Discussion included changing April 15 to April 1; adding "No Dogs Allowed", etc. Ken stated dogs are not an issue and Greg agreed. Hugh would like to research other cemeteries and sign verbiage as well as rules regarding accepted styles of headstones including material make-up of the sign; the look of the stone; stone accessories such as flashing lights, electric headstones, solar lighted candles, motion sensors with video, etc. Hugh stated he would bring recommendations to the next meeting regarding trends in cemeteries and rules for comparison.

Dolores added that both signposts for the Rules sign also need to be replaced. The sign maker suggests metal be used for the posts. The sign will cost approximately \$980 and the aluminum posts \$325. Tom stated there is enough money to cover this cost.

After more discussion, the suggestion was made to change the written rules rather than the text of the Rules sign. Hugh and Dolores will work on sign verbiage.

Motion by Hugh Curley, seconded by several to authorize up to \$1500 for a new sign and new sign posts including installation fees. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Tom Palmieri, seconded by Peg Atwell to approve the President's report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. **Headstone Condition:** Peg stated more stones are in need of repair since the list was dropped off to Kim for typing. In particular, one stone with quite a large base has fallen over. This stone did not break but the base does need to be reset. This stone is located on the south side of the cemetery near the cedar trees and is a light color granite stone.

Discussion continued about the need to ascertain:

- a. Stones that need to be repaired because of historical value
- b. Stones that belong to families who are still in the area and who will be responsible for repairs
- c. Stones the Cemetery Company will be responsible for repairing
- d. Stones that pose a danger if they fall
- e. Estimation of costs related to the repair of stones

Tom commented there is \$5,000 in matching funds still available in this budget year that can be used to make some repairs. Ken stated the cost to dig a 3-4 foot base is about \$130; to pour concrete and set the stone is about another \$200. Ken added that many of the stones need to be reset in concrete to prevent them from falling over.

Greg expressed concern about sandstone headstones which are more delicate. He asked who would make these repairs. Ken replied he has the equipment to make these repairs. Hugh asked Ken to prepare a list with estimates for repairs.

Discussion continued regarding the number of gravesites still available in back of Town Hall. Ken stated grave openings need to be done on a case by case basis. Cremations are strongly suggested for all remaining available plots.

Peg mentioned there are trees that need to be trimmed on the north side of the cemetery. Limbs keep dropping and this poses a danger to visitors and property. Suggestion made to talk to Terrance Keenan, Tree Warden, to remove dangerous limbs and/or trees.

Headstone Subcommittee: Barbara stated the Headstone Subcommittee will begin work when the weather clears.

Adjourn: Motion by several and seconded to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Garvis
Secretary