

Aug. 31, 2017

Chilmark Cemetery Commission

A meeting of the Chilmark Cemetery Commission was held at Town Hall on Thursday, August 31, 2017, at 2:00p.m, a replacement meeting for the second Thursday of August for which there was no quorum. Present were commissioners Harriette Otteson, John Flender, and Sally Cook, along with Susan Murphy, Cemetery Superintendent. Reading the minutes for the last meeting of June 30th was postponed. Copies of June 30th meeting will be available at the next meeting, September 14th.

New Chair, Harriette Otteson, presented a full agenda which started with her thanks to John for copies of the map of plots in the new section of the cemetery. Following was a discussion of Trina Kingsbury's lot and her personal request for a green burial with sheepskin wrapping in a wood casket. The commissioners agreed that such an arrangement is not a green burial because the use of a casket requires a cement liner. There is also a question of space availability on the Kingsbury lot. The response to Trina's request is a negative. John referred us to Section III, E., in Cemetery Regulations for the stated rule on cement liners. John also handed out copies of his 5-page "Information Regarding the Abel's Hill Cemetery," stapled to copies of the current Cemetery Commission Regulations and all details of policies and procedures(per John's April 4th presentation to Board of Selectmen). A few comments on the need for fill when green burials settle. Susan Murphy assured us that there is excavation material available. Next was the request for an additional stone on the Abbot lot which was rejected due to the 5-stone limit. Harriette wrote the Abbot family a statement authorizing the addition of a name to an existing stone, as space allows. An additional stone has been requested for the Sherwood lot which already has 5 stones. Susan will follow up on that request.

Following were comments on upkeep of the cemetery grounds with general agreement that all is good. The Perpetual Care signs have all been removed and stored in the shed where they can be accessed if requested. Harriette pointed out that some 16 trees need attention as well as trimming back of brush and bushes. Harriette read us a draft notice she has prepared to outline new policy on grave decorations, especially artificial flowers, also beach stones and hanging items such as bird feeders. It was agreed that each of us should write up ideas/preferences for discussion in the next meeting. More on cemetery maintenance included the need for a stump grinder and a chipper which needs Susan will address with Don Sexton. Also Susan is hoping to get Fuller for leaf vacuuming - no more throwing of debris over the border fencing. Harriette mentioned need for gravel in the ruts of the road on north side.

Susan brought up several issues - Kiley's request to make one full lot out of two adjacent half lots, which commissioners denied; Roz Glazer's question about commemorative placement of beach stones which commissioners required be off the ground; the Lewis' desire to plant ground cover which should be a determined distance from grave markers; and Gerry Haas' question about planting a tree in open triangular area adjacent to his lot, 2 Beetlebung. Noting that his wife passed away recently, Sally suggested giving some time to this question.

Harriette informed us of \$12,115 in the Perpetual Care Fund which may be tapped into for cemetery maintenance/machinery. Further, the Floss Mayhew account may provide funds. The next meeting date is September 14th, at 2p.m., Town Hall. With no further business, the cemetery meeting was adjourned at 3:12p.m.

Sarah(Sally) Cook, Secretary

9/14/17 Sarah Cook
APPROVED