

approved
Chilmark Cemetery Commission ~~DRAFT~~

A meeting of the Chilmark Cemetery Commission was held at Town Hall on Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. Harriette Otteson, Chair, Commissioner Sally Cook, and Susan Murphy, Cemetery Superintendent, were present. John Flender was absent due to a scheduling conflict. The minutes of the June 30, 2017, were reviewed and passed on, followed by review of the minutes of August 31, 2017, also accepted.

First order of business was discussion for drafting regulations on grave decorations/momentos. Sally and Susan each presented and read statements of their approach to formulating a policy; their written statements were submitted to Harriette for future discussion. Next, Susan reported on requests from two lot owners: 1) Gerry Haas' desire for a tree to be planted in the open circular area adjacent to his lot. Harriette and Susan visited the area and concluded the triangle to be too small for a planting but recommended to Gerry that a small shrub could be planted on the his lot. 2) Sally Sherwood's request for more stones on her family's lot which was denied since the limit of five stones already exists. Harriette gave out hard copies of an e-mail to Jennifer Christy, Town Clerk, from Sally Sherwood, explaining the history of her lot, existing burials, and early(1997) agreements with then Cemetery Superintendent, Basil Welch. Harriette also gave us a printout of handwritten information on the Sherwood family and two lots, side by side, in names of John Sherwood and Walter Sherwood. Susan will meet with Sally Sherwood; and Harriette and Sally Cook will review the two lots and existing stones, all with a mind to arriving at a mutually acceptable solution.

Further reports from the Superintendent: 1) Susan has three appointments lined up with arborists for the needed tree cutting; she will report back on bids for the work and estimates on cost. Harriette is also interested in cost and advisability of paving the North Avenue vs. filling in the deep ruts with gravel. 2) The first green burial under Susan Murphy's watch occurred on Monday(September 11th) with the passing of long-time Chilmark resident, Jules Worthington, on that date. Sandy Fisher was able to prepare for the burial with short notice. No cemetery representative was present. The next day Harriette talked with Judy Worthington and her brother about permission for a stone marker and planting of shrubs(a lilac bush is in place) at the grave site. With condolences to the Worthington family, the cemetery commission meeting was adjourned at 3:00p.m.

Sarah(Sally) Cook, Secretary

Sarah Cook
approved on Nov. 9, 2017