

Chilmark Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of May 10, 2017

A meeting of the Chilmark Cemetery Commission was held at Town Hall on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at 4:00p.m. Present were Commissioners Sarah Cook, John Flender, Harriette Otteson, constituting a quorum. Also Cemetery Superintendent Susan Murphy was present. John presented an agenda of 10 items.

First was a welcome to new commissioner, Harriette Otteson, and new Cemetery Superintendent, Susan Murphy. Following was an expression of appreciation to Wesley Cottle for his past service as a commissioner. Third item was approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2017, meeting. Fourth, review of minutes from the April 7, 2017, public hearing, with one correction in the spelling of Harriette Otteson's last name(here correct). Next, Susan Murphy presented the Superintendent's report which was mainly about her meeting with candidates for the job of cemetery cleanups. She met with two people applying for the work, and then consulted with John Flender. Together they agreed that Jesse Fuller of Fuller Landscape was the best candidate. It seems he has the right equipment and is available to work in early spring (March and April). On motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously

VOTED: To engage Fuller Landscaping to do the spring clean-up for the sum of \$2,800

Susan noted that Don Sexton was mowing on a recent Sunday. Implied questions - Should Susan be informed before a mowing? Also, what does Don do with fallen limbs and brush? According to John, Don simply pushes such debris to the side; it is not his job to clear limbs and branches, but rather that of the Superintendent. Susan mentioned Don's work around other Chilmark sites, the Post Office and the Library. Susan would like to see more careful trimming around grave stones at the cemetery, and Harriette noted that it would be good to clear debris, piled up against the stonewall, north line of cemetery. Further, John said that the dirt from excavated graves, piled on the west end, should be hauled away. Other questions re leaf composting possibilities and trash problems were discussed; Susan suggested a drum to burn materials. For old materials (jars/cans, plants gone by) left on lots, it was agreed that a "carry in-carry out" policy could be displayed on a sign, rather than providing a trash barrel at the cemetery. Fake flowers and decorations left fading on lots for years is not an acceptable practice to at least two commissioners who might like to make a rule to eliminate this practice. No action was taken at this meeting. Sally brought up the flooding problem of the McGhee-Gude lots with questions about a solution, for ongoing discussion. John thanked Susan for a good report.

Sixth item was a look at the Budget figures, May 3 - June 30, 2017, provided by John Flender. Few questions were asked as details were clear on John's printout. The seventh item, a complex family request regarding burials caused much discussion. Susan knows some of the family and volunteered to find out who's who and provide this family with the cemetery rules about marker stones. Item #9 details space problems at the R. Frederick Flanders' lot. Susan will talk with Mrs. Frederick Flanders and provide help/support.

John gave each in attendance copies of the approved Cemetery Rules and Regulations as well as other documents. He also gave a copy of The Burials Catalog, as of Oct. 31, 2013, to Superintendent Susan Murphy. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m.



Sarah (Sally) Cook
Secretary