

TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
CEMETERY TRUSTEES  
Minutes of the Meeting- March 16, 2010

Present: Jill Young  
Thomas Belcher  
Shelagh Clough

Jill called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Thomas Belcher was sworn in as a Cemetery Trustee for 3 years and the document for both Thom and Shelagh were recorded with the Town Clerk's office.

The minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

The application to Pepsi Bottling Company for a volunteer grant has been sent. No word has been received about its status at this time.

The Trustees have not received information about the State Cemetery Trustee's training yet. Jill will research this.

Val Germain has asked about the Catholic Cemetery and was told that the Trust Fund is not used for the Catholic Cemetery. Val has said that she will attend the next Cemetery Trustee's meeting to explain about the Trust Fund.

Jill has asked why the cemetery was not mentioned in the voter's guide. It was noted that the Trustees need to receive budget information before each meeting. Shelagh will ask Kristie for this information.

An update was given on Evergreen Cemetery noting that there are small limbs down. Sunnyside Cemetery has a few large limbs down. It is too soon to go into the cemeteries. The official date for the cemeteries to open is April 1 but it is up to the discretion of the Trustees if the cemeteries are ready for use at that time.

It was noted that the cemeteries are in need of new loam this year. There is also a need for seeding.

In a review of the workings of the Cemetery Trustees, it was noted that vital record searches are done by the Town Clerk's office and the Cemetery Trustees. The sale of lots in the cemetery is the responsibility of the Cemetery Trustees. At the current time the Town Office has been making the sale of the lots. To purchase a lot you must be a resident of the town. Only two lots will be sold per family. When the lots are sold, the names of the people who may be buried there shall be listed on the back of the deed. The Trustees also discussed the need for a plan for a burial when there are no financial funds available. In this case, the body will be required to be cremated, unless there is a religious stipulation otherwise. A vault is not required in the case of cremation. An individual may dig for a cremation but not for a full burial. All names must be

placed on the gravestone. Corner markers shall be put in at the time when a lot is sold. The cemetery allows plastic flowers but they should be removed at such time as when they are faded.

In a case when a private cemetery is abandoned, the Trustees would approach the owners about having the Town take over the cemetery. You may have a burial on private property but it must be recorded in the deed and a right of way to the gravesite granted for the future.

If an individual wishes to sell a lot back to the Town, they may do so but will only received the amount paid at the time of purchase. The lot may only be sold back to the Town. It may not be sold to another individual.

Jill noted that she will go over the cemetery records with Shelagh at a time that is convenient for both of them.

There being no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Debra Belcher  
Cemetery Trustee Recording Secretary