
DURHAM CEMETERY COMPANY

September 5, 2007

Minutes

President Barbara Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Durham Town Hall Meeting Room.

Officers and Directors Present: Mary DiMella, Tom Palmieri, Dolores Caturano, Peg Atwell, Hugh Curley, Dick Olsen, Bob Atwell, Sr., Phyllis Naples-Valenti, Greg Burritt, Kim Garvis, Barbara Olsen, Simone Howe, Ken Jay.

Secretary's Report:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of May 2, 2007 as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Sexton's Report: There were two cremations at Center Cemetery and one cremation at Mica Hill Cemetery. All settled graves were repaired at Mica Hill Cemetery. All three cemeteries have been mowed and maintained.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Sexton's Report as submitted. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Tom reported the Fidelity Magellan Fund was sold resulting in more cash funds than usual. The cash is in a money market fund earning 4.9% interest so the dividend interest is higher than budgeted. He met with the investors and they made some suggestions for investments but with the volatility in the market Tom felt it prudent to wait until the market stabilizes. Market fluctuations are expected and it is fortunate that more of the funds were in cash, therefore, the overall investments were down only 3.9%.

Discussion continued regarding Annual Care Funds and budget. Lot sales are down but the only indebtedness the Cemetery Company has is the loan to the town. More money put into the maintenance of Center Cemetery and Mica Hill Cemetery. Minimal amount spent on the Old Cemetery. The monument repair expenditures are above and beyond the matching funds of the town but the dividend interest is good enough to cover expenses.

Tom asked Ken if he could break down his invoices into mowing and sexton fees. Ken responded that his annual bid does separate these figures out. Tom asked if separate bills could be provided for each cemetery. Tom and Ken will discuss this further.

A motion was made by Phyllis Naples-Valenti and seconded by several to accept the treasurer's report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

- a. Update regarding Greaver and Ward quote for Mica Hill Cemetery: Barbara reported all the information has been received from the surveyor and they will keep in touch.
- b. Bascom and Benjamin map bill: Tom reported all bills have been paid.
- c. Appoint Nominating Committee: Barbara asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Hugh, Simone and Phyllis volunteered and Hugh will be the chairman.
- d. Miscellaneous: Barbara brought a notebook of cemetery pictures and asked Kim to put this in the town clerk vault for safekeeping. Barbara also provided a map of the Town Hall Cemetery that was given to her by Ann Parsons and asked that this also be placed in the vault. Barbara asked Kim to make a copy of the map for Ken Jay and to send a thank you note to Ann. Kim offered to fix the small tear in the map with preservation grade tape.

Old Business

- a. Update on Greg Buritt landscaping at Mica Hill: Greg provided pictures of the work completed thus far. The entire south side of the cemetery is completed. All of the plastic is out. Weeding, pruning and mulching are done. The area by the pump has been weeded and pruned. There are still three island strips that need to be done and Greg reported he might not be able to complete the job this year. He will work until October. Ken commented the work that has been done by Greg so far has been excellent and the areas completed look great. Greg stated he will finish the work next year and then will proceed with normal spring and fall clean up. Barbara and Greg will divide existing plants to use for fill in.

Tom asked, once the hard clean up is completed, how many hours per season will be required to maintain. Greg answered, probably 75-100 hours initially which should drop to about 50 hours by the third year. He has put a thick layer of mulch and this will need to be done again in about 3 years. He has used about 88 cubic yards of mulch so far.

- b. Update on Francis Miller restoration in the Old Cemetery – Bob provided pictures and reported that when the crypt was fully exposed it was discovered, to everyone's surprise, that the crypt was resting on a platform, which, over the years, had sunken into the ground. Since the platform was a part of the original design it should be repaired as well. The added restoration will cost \$11,000 more than planned. Three years of funds have accumulated so the added costs won't be a problem. Barbara stated this crypt is of great historical significance and worth restoring to the fullest extent possible. The footing has been poured and the work is proceeding. Francis Miller will keep Barbara apprised of the progress. The project should be completed by November.

Tom pointed out that once this project is completed there will be no money for additional projects until the 2008-2009 budget. The Cemetery Company will need to put aside funds over the next two years to preserve additional tombstones. Tom added that Fran Korn indicated the town would be willing to budget more money for stone preservation if the Cemetery Company is willing to

match funds. Tom added there is a little money left to do a small project in the spring of 2008.

5. New Business

Kim reported that Ellen Hoyt called inquiring about selling her plot back to the cemetery. Laura asked Ms. Hoyt to submit her request in writing, which she did on September 4, 2007. Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt purchased one plot, Block 6 Lot 26 for \$500.00 on March 9, 2005. The deed for this plot was recorded March 14, 2005 in Volume 1 Page 367. Subsequently, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt divorced and Mr. Hoyt provided a Quit Claim, dated February 23, 2007, transferring his interest in the plot to Ellen Hoyt.

Tom asked Kim to review the procedure with Laura for resale back to the Cemetery Company. (After the meeting Kim spoke with Laura about the procedure. Laura confirmed there was no need to issue any new deeds; Tom was asked to send a check to Ms. Hoyt, and the plot will be added back into the inventory for resale.)

A motion was made by Richard Olsen, seconded by Phyllis Naples-Valenti to purchase Block 6 Lot 26 back from Ellen Hoyt for \$500.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Simone, and others, expressed concern about the Cemetery during the upcoming Fair weekend, specifically, accessibility to the cemetery for family members, and, the ongoing problem of young people using the cemetery as a hang out during fair weekend. Phyllis offered to speak to fair officials about the possibility of extra lighting to deter the teenagers and, if possible, extra oversight by the state police.

Adjourn: A motion was made by several and seconded by several to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Garvis
Secretary