

Chesterfield Cemetery Commission Meeting - April 9, 2019

Present: Neil Jenness, Chris Flagg, Fran Shippee, Ed Cheever, Pat Porter, Cheryl Maibusch

Meeting took place at the Chesterfield Library.

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Neil shared that, over the winter, it was discovered that all Cemetery funds have, for some time now, been divided into individual trust funds. All Cemetery funds should funnel into a single fund but in order to accomplish this going forward, a warrant article will have to be submitted at the next Town Meeting (March, 2020) to be approved by the town residents. So things will stay the way they are until the issue has been submitted at Town Meeting.

In 1969, when the Cemetery Commission accepted the land that now comprises Friedsam Cemetery, money was supposed to have gone into a fund to specifically maintain the Friedsam Cemetery. Rather than that happening the money went into a trust in that person's name.

Motion to approve minutes from October, 25, 2018 was made by Pat Porter. It was seconded by Ed Cheever. Motion passed and October, 2018 minutes were accepted as written.

Chris Flagg gave the following report:

- He is beginning his 9th season as sexton and maintenance started for the season last week.
- There have been 8 stones in 5 cemeteries that broke over the winter due to frost heaves. There was an additional stone that didn't break, but rather fell over, in Lot #189A/B in Friedsam cemetery. It is a large stone that fell over and any known family members will be contacted as they would be responsible for re-erecting it, as oftentimes this expense is covered by one's homeowner's insurance. It was also stated by Neil that cemetery lot deeds are located in the Highway Department garage.
- There is a cremation scheduled for interment on May 4 in Chesterfield West and a full body burial scheduled for Friedsam.

- As the truck had a lot of work done on it last year and it is currently running fine, Chris doesn't want to get rid of it right now. However, it will need new tires this season. All other equipment is in good shape to start the season.
- The new 52" mower has already been purchased from monies in the expendable trust.
- Regarding staffing schedules: Tom will be out of town from April 17 - May 6; and Chris will be out of state on April 29 - 30.
- Chris got an estimate for paving to be done on 650 feet going up the hill in Friedsam Cemetery. At 2" thick the estimate came in at \$7000. He will also get an estimate for the Spofford Cemetery which is not as extensive.

Other discussion mentioned that the Spofford Cemetery is filling up. Not imminently, but there are fewer lots remaining there than in either Friedsam or Chesterfield West, the other two active cemeteries for the Town.

The committee is revisiting an idea from the recent past to create a Memory Area in at least one active cemetery for folks that are not full-body-buried in the cemetery but who would like to have a memorial plaque for themselves and/or their cremains. This would alleviate the need to have to purchase a full plot and erect a headstone just to bury cremains.

Options are being considered in regards to the fencing surrounding Chesterfield West as to making it more sturdy and easily maintained as well as remaining aesthetically pleasing.

It was discussed that all future meetings for the Cemetery Commission for 2019 will take place at the Chesterfield Library. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11.

Motion to adjourn made by Pat Porter, seconded by Cheryl Maibusch. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Maibusch
Cemetery Commissioner