

CHESTERFIELD CEMETERY COMMISSION MEETING - August 11, 2020

Present: Ed Cheever, Neil Jenness, Pat Porter, Margaret Winn, Gary Winn, Chris Flagg, sexton. Jeff Titus also attended.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Center Chesterfield Cemetery.

The minutes of the July 16, 2020 meeting were approved as amended. The new cremation lots are in Friedsam.

The 2020 Town Meeting Warrant was discussed. Chris commented that the amount in the Friedsam Expendable Trust which was transferred to the town was not as much as indicated. We expended funds to repair the road in Friedsam in July 2019. The voters also approved the use of town funds to repave the road in Spofford Cemetery in Article 33, so the funds from the Friedsam Trust may not be needed. (Ed will clarify the confusion with the town.)

Sexton's Report: Chris reported that he is still working on the water at Chesterfield West. He has put a barrel of water there in the meantime. The mower has required some repairs. They are working on repairs to the New Boston gate. Tom and Li will handle the Patterson cremains interment next week while Chris is on vacation. The 2020 approved cemetery budget was \$39,416. Chris's report showed that we are in good shape, so far. Transportation costs may increase, because of Covid-19 separation requirements; we must pay private vehicle costs. This could be offset by Covid payments for expenses related to the pandemic requirements. There is often no water left at Friedsam to prime the pump. Brian Jenna has been taking care of the pump – removing it in the winter and re-installing it in the spring.

Several large gravestones in Spofford were toppled off their bases by frost over the winter. Neil has not been able to locate any descendants, so we must pay for their repair. She will contact Keene Monument to get an estimate and to have them do the work of righting them. They will probably need new foundations.

Cemetery Book: Neil reported the Historical Society is hoping to resume work on the updating soon. Margaret, Pat and Jeff volunteered to work on it.

A question was raised about trimming of shrubs and plantings. Chris said they do not tend the plantings, but do remove dead or over-grown shrubs and trees. A sign is posted at the entrances as to the size of trees allowed.

It was noted that the fence in Chesterfield West needs work. Some will be done now, the rest next season.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M. Next meeting: September 15 @6:30 in Chesterfield West.

Cornelia Jenness, Secretary