

Agenda & Minutes for the Cemetery Committee
September 25, 2007
10am-noon

Agenda:

Old Business: Minutes form March 2007 Meeting (Corrections and Additions)

Overview of Cemetery activities (Spring-Summer 2007)

Burials/Cremains/vault usage/repairs/equipment...Bruce Meldrim

Factors influencing the improvement of the cemetery

Reports

Cost comparisons Michael Our & Kay Buschle

Computer Resource Ray Mallette

Columbariums in the area

Remarks Mayor Murphy

Concerns of the committee

Date of next meeting

Minutes:

Chairperson: Bruce Meldrim, Commissioner of Cemeteries-Village of Central Square

Members Present: Kay Buschle, Penny Faulter, Ernest Ladd (Watson Funeral Home Representative), Michael Ours, Clara Sauter.

Absent: Representative for Traub Funeral Home

Guest: Mayor Millard Murphy

Review of March 28, 2007 minutes with no additions or changes. Motion to approve made by P. Faulter and seconded by B. Meldrim, Carried for approval.

Summary of Cemetery Activities...Bruce Meldrim

25 burials including 9 spring burials. Tent and skirt for funerals are owned by the village and carefully stored to maintain good appearance. Cemetery lawn mower is being maintained for this year but will need repair and then retired for lighter village work. A new mower for the cemetery is envisioned for next year. Land cleared at Route 11 south boundary of the cemetery. Resident next door has moved his equipment to his own land. Several tree limbs have fallen and fortunately have not damaged any stones. Review of trees for removal is in progress.

Factors which impact communication about cemetery services are as follows:

- Website exposure with description of the cemetery and pictures of staff and aground along with phone number contacts.
- Small business cards with information could be carried by cemetery staff for distribution.
- The brochure about the cemetery needs to be updated and the names corrected. Prices are included and that brochure can be circulated and given out. This should be done immediately and re-distributed.
- Advertisement could be done in the newspaper. The Village of Parish sends out a newsletter twice a year to all the cemetery families. It is informative and well received.

Reports on fees for bordering cemeteries..Michael Ours and Kay Buschle

Location	Grave price	Interment fee
North Syracuse	\$650.00	\$500.00
Central Square	\$375.00	\$400.00
Mexico Community Cemetery	\$285.00	\$285.00
West Monroe Cemetery (Rt. 49)	\$350.00	\$350.00
Parish Cemetery	\$360.00	\$370.00
Pulaski Cemetery	\$350.00	\$350.00

Extra fees for weekends charged. They range from \$55.00-\$200.00. Mexico charges \$100.00 extra for non-residents.

.....Mayor Murphy

Mayor Murphy reported that cemetery tree removal will be underway soon, The trees that have split within the cemetery and some trees along the north border of the cemetery will need to be removed which is why no fencing has been put in place. The village has a new insurance company, and the cemetery is part of that plan. The insurance company will not replace stones from tree damage if those trees are known to be potential problems. The insurance company looks favorably on fencing the cemetery. Some new ideas about the cemetery were presented by the Mayor. They included a chapel area with a Columbarium for family memorial services. This would have similarity to a mausoleum. Acquisition of more cemetery land and vault storage was discussed. Computer study is underway in the village. They are looking at computer programs which would include all aspects of the village operation as well as the cemetery. The following name of a person who specializes in cemetery program sis Ray Mallette. Mr. Mallette installed the cemetery computer program at the North Syracuse Cemetery. Theya re presently installing Quick Books for payroll.

Columbarium was shown from three cemetery sites, North Syracuse, Pine Plains Cemetery and Baldwinsville. The prices range from \$20,000 to \$40,000. Those prices include the structure, 4-5 feet of cement for the foundation of the structure, a crane to handle the placing of the structure and paving around it along with shrubs and other flowers for beautification of the property. It was pointed out by all three cemeteries that there needs to be enough space around the area to place a tent aand chairs for memorial services and an easy access road for cars bringing people to the service. Property placement and road entries need to be established even if the Columbarium is not an immediate purchase. Pictures of various structures are in the office of Bruce Meldrim.

Mayor Murphy clarified the name of the cemetery as: Hillside Memorial Cemetery Park

He clarified the name because cemeteries per se do not seem to be able to get grant funding but parks can apply for grants.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am

Respectively submitted by,
Kay Buschle