

HILLSIDE MEMORIAL CEMETERY  
COMMITTEE MEETING

December 8, 2009

10-12 Noon

Members present: Kay Buschle, Penny Faulter, Bruce Meldrim (Cemetery Commissioner), Linda Murphy, Millard Murphy (Village Mayor), Michael Ours, Heather Stevens (Village Trustee), Jaime Worden (Traub Funeral Home)

Absent: Ernest Ladd (Watson Funeral Home), Clara Sauter

Review of March 18, 2009 Minutes. Please add Linda Murphy to the Members Present. Linda was at the last two meetings and her name was inadvertently omitted.

Re-order of the Agenda: Mayor Murphy reported on the purchase of the barn from George Perfield Estate at a cost of \$26,000.00. Some modifications will be made in the building. The garage on the cemetery property was sold for \$2500.00 and removed from that site. The cost of the building will not impact the taxpayers of the Village. The issue of the plastic vaults has been handled by the Village Board and a rule has been established that no plastic vaults will be allowed in the cemetery. There was a large tree removed on the North Route 11 side of the cemetery. Trees are always a hazard for the stones underneath them and the insurance company is concerned about drainage. Review of tree status is an ongoing process. Mayor Murphy described the responsibility of the Village Trustees. Heather Stevens is responsible for the Cemetery Memorial Park. There was discussion of trees and shrubs for the landscape.

Heather Stevens Report: Heather has been compiling a history of the cemetery and she has taken pictures of all the stones in the cemetery and has a note book with all the photographs and written summaries she is collecting on the various people buried in the cemetery. Other cemeteries have these books available at the cemetery for review by the general public. Her goal is to do this with her record and notebook pictures. We did not discuss location for this book, but a goal would be to put this up in the Spring, so that people would have access to the information. She presented her "Adopt a Plot" program and this will be pursued with volunteers and discussed at a later time. Kay volunteered to begin work on this in the Spring. Heather presented her Scouting activity in the cemetery as a way of beginning interest about the history of families buried in the cemetery. \*See hand-out. The Committee recognizes Heather's valuable work and effort to learn more about our history and to preserve the beauty and accuracy of our cemetery. We asked her to be on the Cemetery Committee and to be our liaison to the Village Board. She agreed to do both. We welcome this ability to join with Heather in her history and pursuit of more information about each grave. She is also very interested in the computerization of the cemetery information.

Michael Ours agreed to go over some more information about computer programs and they will work together on this review. Discussion of the manner of recording burials resulted in a need to verify the information recorded in the death book with the information on each card kept per

burial. This must be accurate before we move to the computer with information. Jaime Worden and Linda Murphy will begin his cross-checking of information after the holidays. They will begin and then others can follow their plan to verify the information.

Bruce asked to present his cemetery issue. He had a letter of inquiry about the Pettingill plot of 10 grave spaces. There is a person buried in this plot who is not family and the person inquiring is family and doesn't think this is correct information even though our records show that it is. This burial occurred in 1957, and the body came from Clyde, New York. There was indication Traub Funeral Home may have been involved and Jaime was going to check on this and get back to Bruce. This is an important issue to solve because we have to take the position that our records are correct and that we must assume the person who is recorded to be present there, is in fact, there. When all the data about this issue is secured, a letter needs to go to the family member with an explanation. The Mayor should be notified of this situation once all details are validated. The Mayor was not present during this discussion, since he had a previously scheduled meeting and left at 11am. Bruce and Jaime will follow up.

See immediate plans on Page 3

Respectively submitted,

Kay Buschle

Plan for the Cemetery Committee to proceed:

1. Heather Stevens will become a permanent member of the Committee. This was approved by all the Committee Members present.
2. Heather will act as our liaison to the Village Board, since she is also assigned to the Cemetery Park as part of her Village Board responsibilities.
3. A computer program for the cemetery is the goal in order to preserve accurate information and be able to quick reference the whole area. This should cut down on inaccuracies and errors and preserve the data in case of fire or other unexpected destruction of materials. Mike Ours and Heather Stevens will follow-up on review of computer programs.
4. We will begin immediately after the holidays to compare the Death Book with the cards that have been kept over the years which provided the method of recording the spaces in the cemetery and the people buried in each space. This will also show the empty lots which are present. The deeds will show who purchased the lots. Linda Murphy and Jaime Worden will begin and then other volunteers will continue. We need to set up the plan for comparing the information since differences in the two documents must be recorded in a systematic way in order to do more checking on accuracy. The marking and numbering of each section will be important to recognize in case any sections are re-numbered in the future.
5. We need to establish a list of volunteers who can participate in the "Adopt a Plot" program.

Respectively Submitted,

Kay Buschle