

Cemetery Trustees Meeting
January 31, 2018
5:30 P.M.

Lyme Historians, 15 Main St.

Present: Laurie Wadsworth, chair; Jay Cary, Treasurer; Michael Hinsley

2018 Town Report: Jay reported that he has not yet heard back from Dina whether or not the usual request for withdrawal of funds from the —— needs to be included in this year's warrant. Jay will follow up.

Laurie laid out three items for the Trustees to consider this evening: (1) Meeting with Sexton this winter; (2) MOU with the Select Board; (3) 2018 plans.

(1) Meeting with Sexton this winter

We determined that we should meet with Bill La Bombard before the season begins to hear his concerns. We also decided to meet separately with Adam O'Donnell, who currently does all the mowing in the cemeteries. Michael and Laurie will set up these meetings.

(2) MOU with the Select Board

We reviewed the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding between the Lyme Select Board and the Cemetery Trustees and determined that all of the items are up-to-date. It was noted that we have not signed one since then, however. (3 years)

(3) 2018 plans

In 2017, most of our energy and funds went toward the removal of potentially hazardous trees in the Beal Cemetery. We brainstormed a list of possible projects for us this year:

Beale Cemetery:

- Hire Jonathan Appel to assess and repair gravestones
- repair stone wall that surrounds the cemetery
- replace the gate? or leave it open?

Old Cemetery:

- Hire Henderson's to remove another 2 old pines near the Civil War graves
- Urge Historians to clean up the NE corner of their property near the cemetery's fence
- Instruct and supervise Adam O'Donnell in the respectful procedure (i.e., no weed whacker which might harm old stones) to remove invasive growths around several gravestones
- likewise clean up the southern "border" along the fence
- Possible planting(s) between the cemetery and the Dowd's property on the western edge

Gilbert Cemetery:

- removal of trees that pose a threat to old gravestones

- exploration of another gravesite identified by Jean Smith
- continued clean-up of bank along eastern edge

Porter Cemetery:

- seems to be in good shape; no work needed, because of Smiths' caretaking
- Thank You note to Terry and Laura Smith for their volunteer maintenance work here (Laurie will provide)

Highland Cemetery:

- probably not hire a landscaper
- continue with Bartlett Tree doing pesticides?
- Hire Henderson's to assess and recommend some shade trees?
 - also, removal of old Arbor Vitae?
 - new saplings?
- "hedge" /visual barrier between cemetery and maintenance garage — ask Lyme Gardeners for advice?
- painting of maintenance garage?
- Proposal : annually, Trustees need to walk through to identify potential projects to beautify as well as maintain this cemetery that is still in use and gives visitors a first view of Lyme

other: Michael proposed a possible "field trip" to identify the mysterious "Tinkhamtown" Cemetery. Laurie reported that it comes up before the Historians about every three years or so, but urges that it be left a mystery!

Before next meeting:

Laurie will call Henderson's to get proposals for work as described above:

- Old Cemetery - remove another 2 old pines near the Civil War graves
- Gilbert - removal of trees that pose a threat to old gravestones - identify & remove/trim?
- Highland - Hire Henderson's to assess and recommend some shade trees?
 - also, removal of old Arbor Vitae?
 - new saplings?

**NEXT MEETING: Wed., Feb. 28 5:30 PM at Lyme Historians,
15 Main St., Lyme**

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Wadsworth,
Secretary & Chair,
Cemetery Trustees

ADDENDUM: We did not schedule a meeting with Sexton La Bombard, as he is dealing with his own and his wife's health issues this winter. Will try to reschedule in the spring, as conditions hopefully improve.