

Lyme Cemetery Trustees

Minutes: Sept. 26, 2018

Present: Jay Cary, Michael Hinsley, Laurie Wadsworth

Met initially at Highland Cemetery, 5:15 PM; moved to Old Cemetery and then to Lyme Historians' meeting room.

1. Accepted Minutes from August
2. Walked both Highland & Old Cemeteries to observe damage to lawns, which is extensive.
 - Animals (probably skunks) have dug up large portions of the lawn in the center section of Highland, and a bit along north east wall in Old
 - Observed many instances of additional damage in both cemeteries, both near headstones and along ridges in Old; obviously caused by lawnmowers coming too close, going too fast, and making sharp turns that dig up the lawn. Also, many flags either down or damaged at veterans' graves (also observed in Beal Cemetery).
3. Decided to hire Matt Thibodeau on our own to do temporary repair at Highland & walked down to the Transfer Station to ask him in person. He agreed that he could scrape up the damaged soil, dispose of it, spread fresh loam, and reseed. [*see note below]
4. Water problems at Highland: grub/skunk problem acerbated by drought and dry soil. Michael will look into hooking up a sprinkler in Highland to keep the soil there moist.
5. Drafted guidelines for lawnmowing at the cemeteries, which will be forwarded to the Town to use in hiring a contractor for 2019 and beyond who will exercise more respect and care while mowing the cemeteries.
6. Discussed long-term goals:
 - long-range restoration of old stones: Jonathan Appel
 - management of trees to prevent damage to all stones in all cemeteries
 - landscaping to enhance serenity and beauty at all Lyme cemeteries, especially Highland
 - finding a new Sexton when Bill L. retires
7. Budget concerns:
 - Use of funds earmarked "Other" — use it or lose it
 - Perpetual Care: 1. long-range restoration of stones: J. Appel 2. continued improvements at Beale

- hire someone to oversee all landscaping, especially at Highland: maintenance of trees and overgrown shrubs, new plantings, Memorial Garden plantings, etc.
- Jay will draft a budget to present to the Town's Budget Committee for approval

Adjourned 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Wadsworth

* NOTE: We were subsequently informed on Sept. 28, 2018 by Dina Cutting that we could not hire Matt Thibodeau outside of his regular work for the Town without insurance.

Hi Laurie and all,

Your e-mail request was reviewed. I chatted with Matt Thebodo about his responsibilities concerning the maintenance work he does for the Town. The Maintenance jobs left for this fall are plentiful and working in the Cemetery is not part of these responsibilities. So the Town can not accommodate your request for him to do this work for you.

As far as hiring him (on the side), or any one to do this work, that is up to you Trustees. I hope you understand that anyone who works for the Town must have insurance and will need to fill out forms (W-9 and supply insurance certificates) prior to doing any work.

* We decided that we could not provide this so no work was done on the lawn at Highland Cemetery in the fall of 2018.

* *Informally, Laurie later chatted with Bill La Bombard, Sexton, who agreed that the lawn might come back on its own, and it would be better to address the problem in the spring.*