

## **Lyme Cemetery Trustees**

**MINUTES: April 30, 2019**

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

1. Unanimously approved Minutes from March 26 meeting.

2. Review proposal from Henderson's re: trees in Old Cemetery

- Jay reported meeting with Jim Henderson on April 3 to look over the downed tree limbs in the Old Cemetery. Laurie also came. Jim agreed that the two large pines should come down before they drop more large limbs and either damage the old gravestones or injure someone. We determined that there are only three possible sites where a crane could park and be able to reach the trees, especially the more easterly one. The need for access, skill, and his hiring of a crane operator will determine cost.
- Henderson's estimate has come in, for \$11,125. Dina put the job out for bid, but as none had come in by the time of this meeting, Trustees voted unanimously to approve Henderson's bid to cut down the trees. Laurie will notify both Henderson's and Dina. (Later, another bid came in to Dina, too late, but for the same amount of money.)

3. Discuss/decide about lawn treatment in Highland

- Trustees are delighted to learn that Lyme Lawn Care has been hired by the Town to do the mowing. Based on their past performance, we anticipate a much better job this year, with minimal damage to stones and soil.
- Jay reported that as of a few days ago, there are still many brown spots in Highland where the grass will not come back on its own, so we voted to hire a professional to scrape off the top layer, spread fresh loam, and reseed these affected areas. Michael will ask Adam O'Donnell to give us a bid, Jay will meet him there (if necessary), and Laurie will ask Patty C. to inform the Town via the website to expect areas which will be blocked off for new grass to grow.

#### 4. Discuss/decide about dogs in cemeteries; ordinance/signage

- When the snow (finally) melted, a large pile of discarded plastic “poop bags” was discovered in a corner of Highland. The mowing company found roughly 70 to 80 plastic bags of doggie delight. They kindly disposed of the mess.
- Laurie has asked Dina to find out if there are any existing ordinances about dogs in the cemeteries, but so far she has not found one. The Cemetery “Rules and Regulations,” adopted in 2006, prohibit horses, but nothing about dogs!
- We adamantly agreed that allowing dogs to run freely over graves, defecate on stones, and then to leave plastic bags for someone else to dispose of is totally unacceptable behavior. We debated about ways to hold people responsible by the police, and whether or not to allow dog walking in the cemeteries at all.
- If there is an ordinance, we voted to approve some signs with appropriate wording.
- If necessary, we might have to meet again to decide on a policy and signage before our next scheduled meeting.

#### 5. Cemetery newsletter

- Jay confirmed that he is receiving “Old Graveyard News” from the NH Old Graveyard Assoc. which we joined this year. He will share it with us digitally.

Adjourned 7:00 PM

**NEXT MEETING: May 28, 5:45 PM,** probably in one of the cemeteries.

Addendum: Cemetery Trustees called an open, informal meeting for townsfolk to give us feedback on how to solve the “Dog Poop Problem” on May 14 at 5:30. Meeting has been posted by Dina. Announcement from the Listserv, posted May 4:

*Special Public Meeting seeking input about problems with dogs in Lyme's cemeteries. Dog feces have been found in our burial grounds. Should we ban dogs in the cemeteries, or just post signs and hope people will be respectful?*

*Help us arrive at a fair and respectful policy: Tuesday, May 14, 5:30 PM in Town Office.*