

## **Minutes of the meeting of the TOCI Cemetery Committee, Tuesday March 27 2012 at 4:30 in the Firehouse conference room**

### **Next meetings: Tuesday April 11 and Tuesday April 24 at 4:30 at Firehouse**

Present: Martha Hamilton, Beth Howe, Joan Robinson and Sylvia Ross. Also ex officio: Dick and Dianne Calder and Susan Campbell

Absent: Gail Miller

Also Present: Donna Damon

1. Joan moved to accept the minutes of the meeting of February 21, 2012. Seconded by Martha. Approved unanimously.

#### 2. Mapping Project

Beth reported that she had met with Erin Quigley who had agreed to do the mapping. Erin said that her academic program at Orono has changed and she is sure that she will not have time to do our cemetery map in a timely manner. She was very apologetic and will look for a replacement. This means that the Committee can probably not take the request for the money to the Selectmen on April 11. But if we take other Cemetery issues to that meeting, we can explain this situation and see if the GIS money can be carried over to the next fiscal year.

#### 3. Adoption of Proposed Rules and Regulations for the Cemetery

Beth said that the previous Cemetery Committee had apparently worked on a revision of the Cumberland regulations, but had not actually adopted them. This Committee should go ahead with this project and take the Rules and Regulations to the Selectmen for their approval on April 11. The group worked through the draft developed by the previous Committee and made a number of changes. These are attached to these minutes. The primary issue that the discussion identified with the previous draft was that it did not reflect the current role of the Cemetery Committee as advisory to the Board of Selectmen. But Dianne was also clear to say that the revisions should still maintain a real role for the Committee in making policy for and monitoring the operation of the Cemetery.

Beth will type up the revised version of the regulations (attached) and the Committee will discuss it again and act on it at the next meeting..

#### 4. Draft language on the Cemetery for the Town Website

Beth said she had done a draft of language about the Cemetery and the Cemetery Committee for the Town website, assuming that we would be adopting the Rules and Regulations which are summarized in the draft. She asked if others thought that it would be a good idea to have such a web page. There seemed to be consensus that this would be a good idea.

#### 5. Allocation to Perpetual Care Fund.

Beth said that since we became a Town we have been putting all of the money collected from the sale of grave sites into the Perpetual Care Fund. We can use the interest generated by the Fund for operations, and that has been growing pretty well since we became a Town on 2007. But we could put some of the proceeds from the sale of gravesites directly in the maintenance budget. State law requires us to put at least 30 percent of the money in the PCF. Deb Grover has recommended that we put in a much a much higher proportion than that since we are such a small cemetery. She

recommended at least 80 percent. If we did this, we would add, on average, about \$800 to the budget each year, depending on how many grave sites are sold.

Beth said we have discussed this issue a lot, and we should make a decision on it. Dianne said that if this does not seem like enough, or if it seems like too much, we can always change it. Martha moved, seconded by Sylvia to recommend to the Selectmen that 80 percent of the money from the sale of gravesites be allocated to the Perpetual Care Fund. Approved unanimously.

#### 6. Cemetery Committee Ordinance

Beth said there is not enough time today to discuss this. It should be deferred to another meeting.

#### 7. Land for the Cemetery and Survey of It

Susan said she had added this to the agenda in the hope that we might be able to get the issue on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Michael Stultz from MMA said we should ask the Town to “convey” the land to the Cemetery. This would simply be a conveyance within the Town government. We should have a survey of the existing Cemetery and the new land we are asking for. Beth said that since this has been a year with a substantial income from burials, we might have enough money to pay for the survey, but we would have to ask the Selectmen to allocate it for a survey on April 11.

Donna said that Bruce Bowman did a survey of part of the Cemetery for the Church because the Church owned the eastern part. Dan LaPointe did a survey of the rest for the Town. Ken Cole did a deed to convey the Church part of the property to the Town and for them to agree on a joint line. Joan and Dick had both been involved in this. In the end, the deed was never executed. Which means that the eastern part of the Cemetery must still belong to the Church. But it also means that we may be able to get surveys for these two parts of the existing Cemetery, so that the only survey that may be necessary is the one of the land that the Committee is asking for, back in what used to be the gravel pit.

Donna also said that she thought that even if not all the details were assembled by Town Meeting, we would have the lot number and the Registry of Deeds book and page reference, and it would be possible to word a warrant article to transfer the land based on that. Susan asked Donna whether she thought any of the proposed new Cemetery land had been transferred by Cumberland to any of the abutters. Donna said she thought none of it had been transferred.

Susan said she thought it was important for the Committee to develop a plan for the whole Cemetery, including work that needs to be done like repairing the gravestones. Beth said that this is something the Committee should work on but this is not the time to take it up.

#### 8. Other business

Susan said she had talked with John Wilson about the problem that the Cemetery’s “capital” items, like the roof and lawn mowers, tend to be less expensive than the minimum cost for inclusion in the Capital Budget. She said he is interested in exploring this further.

Times for two meetings were set in April to be able to discuss all the items that need to go to the Selectmen in time for Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Howe