

## **Minutes of the TOCI Cemetery Committee, Tuesday April 10, 2012 at 4:30 at the Firehouse conference room**

Present: Dianne Calder (ex-officio), Susan Campbell (ex officio) Martha Hamilton, Beth Howe, Gail Miller, Joan Robinson, Sylvia Ross

Also present: Donna Damon

**1. Minutes** of the meeting of March 27, 2012. Joan moved, seconded by Gail to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.

### **2. GIS map of the Cemetery**

Beth reported that Erin Quigley had found another GIS person for us, Jill Tremblay. Jill has recently moved to Portland from Orono where she was doing GIS work for the University of Maine. She has no job yet, so she is pleased to do this and is particularly interested in it because it is very different in scale from the work she has been doing. She has given us a proposal, which is based on Erin's and discussions with Beth. She came out yesterday to look at the Cemetery and talk to Dianne about how the graves should be numbered. The numbering in the deeds themselves is difficult to follow. Donna suggested dividing the Cemetery into five parts that correspond to the various deeds of land to it. Beth said she would talk to Jill about this.

Donna asked whether the number of hours in the proposal and the amount of money would cover all the work that needs to be done. Several people explained that Jill will not do the data entry. She will simply set up a framework for it. It will be up to us to enter the data itself.

Gail moved to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Jill Tremblay be hired to do a GIS map and the framework for a database, with a cap of \$2500 on the cost. Martha Seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

### **3. Rules and Regulations of the Cemetery**

The group went through the draft again and agree to the changes Beth had suggested and reported from the last meeting. Some wording was added about allowing vehicles for handicapped people. Dianne had three suggested additions. Should we have hours of operation such as sunrise to sunset? Another is to say that people must remove things they want to throw away rather than dumping them in the woods. Also the rules shall be posted on the Town website.

There was additional discussion of the number and size of gravestone and whether Sanford Doughty's monument with many names on it could be used as a model. It also includes some people lost at sea, and this brought up the idea that has been around for many years of having a memorial to people lost at sea. But this might be somewhere else than in the Cemetery.

Gail moved to bring the Rules and Regulations of the Cemetery to the Selectmen for adoption. Seconded by Joan. Approved unanimously.

### **4. Perpetual Care Fund**

Donna said that in the past the sale price of the lot was kept separate from the money go to into perpetual care. Beth and Dianne explained that they are not kept separate now. Since 2007 we have been putting 100 percent of the sale price in perpetual care. At the last meeting we voted to reduce it to 80 percent. Donna asked why so much. She thinks that the Committee should reduce it to 50 percent and use the extra money that would go in the operating budget for repair of gravestones. The repair costs in the Congregational Church in Cumberland were very high and that we will need much more money. Several people said it was hard to imagine Chebeague spending as much as Cumberland had.

Beth explained that Deb Grover had recommended that we put most of it away in case of some major disaster to the Cemetery. But Beth said that she didn't know if the principal could be used in that case, or just the interest. Donna said it would be useful to get an answer to that question. Beth said she would.

### **5. Additional land for the Cemetery**

Donna reported to earlier research that she and Bruce had done on surveys of the Cemetery at the time Cumberland was developing the Plan for the Town Property for the Transfer Station and the Town Garage. She gave Beth a packet of material documenting this research. The description below by Beth of the sequence of surveys may not be fully accurate since the information was presented fairly quickly.

Originally five different lots were given to the Cemetery between 1863 and 1931 by Enoch Hamilton (1863), The Church Trustees (1894), John White (1894), The Church Trustees (1923) and J. Wilder Haggett (1931). Donna gave us copies of all of these deeds, and their boundaries could be identified on the ground and mapped.

In the 1980s and 90s when the Transfer Station and Town Garage were being proposed, Cumberland was apparently very resistant to actually locating a line between the Cemetery and the rest of the Town property behind the Cemetery. Even so, Cumberland had several surveys of the Town land behind the Cemetery which have rather different bearings for lines near the Cemetery.

One, by H.I. and E.C Jordan, surveyors, was done in 1974 for using the land as a gravel pit. It does identify bearings for all the boundaries of the Cemetery and indicates that iron pins were found at all the corners.

Dan LaPointe (who has since died) did another in 1992 for the Master Plan for the Transfer Station and the Town Garage. It does not show any surveyed boundary line between the Cemetery and what was then the gravel pit behind it. Donna said he simply retraced lines on an earlier map rather than doing the research back to the earliest land divisions.

Bob Blanchard did a survey for the Church in 1969 which has somewhat different measurements from the other surveys. It also showed that part of the Sinkinson parcel (the old parsonage Maine/White lot) still belonged to the Church, which was not the case.

Bruce Bowman in 1993(?) was doing a survey for the Curit property which is close by and he extended the work to define the boundaries of the Church parcel. The key lines in this case are the original Division Line which runs along the Church's eastern boundary and the Chandler line which goes more or less along North Road as far as the Habigs. This survey did not look at the boundaries of the Cemetery other than the ones on the eastern side which divide the Church from the Cemetery. But apparently it identified a "clack hole" – a piece of land that is not owned by the Cemetery or the Church. As a result of this research, in 1994 the Town had its lawyer, Ken Cole, draw up a quitclaim deed in which the Town and the Cemetery would both have defined a "line of agreement" between their two parcels of land. In the end this deed was never executed.

Donna suggested proposing to the Selectmen that Bruce develop a proposal estimating the cost for surveying the additional Cemetery lines. There would be money in the Cemetery budget that could be used for this. She said there would be some attorney's fees that the Town would have to pay for reviewing the Cole deed and whatever other surveying and deed-writing needed to be done.

There was a discussion about how much land there might be at the back of the Cemetery that the Committee might ask for, and exactly where it is. Donna said she thought it was important to have a 50 foot buffer between the Transfer Station/Town Garage and the Cemetery. If the Committee asked for land over behind the Church, such a buffer would probably be needed between the Cemetery and Patti Rich. Dianne said that Patti was opposed to having any of that land be used. Also Donna's buffer worries her because it might not leave much land available that could be used for graves. Beth said we won't know how much there will be or where it is till we know where the boundary is on the ground.

Beth said she would take these various proposals to the Selectmen's meeting tomorrow.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Howe