

Meeting of the Trustees of the Town Cemeteries

September 25, 2019

The Trustees of the Town Cemeteries met on September 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Warner Town Hall to discuss the annual budget for 2020 and other related issues. In attendance were: Gerald Courser, Penny Courser, Mary Cogswell, Ken Cogswell, and Don Wheeler.

The Trustees were informed this summer that the American Legion of Warner would no longer maintain 11 of the outlying Warner cemeteries at a cost of \$1200.00 per year, paid for by the town. Therefore, the Trustees will assume the maintenance of those cemeteries beginning in the year 2020. After Gerald Courser's discussion with cemetery custodians Gary Young and Lane Munroe, the Trustees decided that our budget would need an additional \$800.00 (plus the slated \$1200.00 originally granted to the Legion) to maintain those additional cemeteries once a year. (Gary Young takes care of the Old Parade Ground Cemetery maintenance twice a year)

That conversation led to a discussion of the annual budget. After a review of the spreadsheet provided by Town Bookkeeper Kelly Henley, the Trustees decided to request a budget of \$26,000.00 for the fiscal year 2020 that would include a continued fee of \$1000.00 for headstone restoration and \$2000.00 for tree removal, as well as the additional new fee for the extra cemetery maintenance that was discontinued by the American Legion as of 2019. Ken Cogswell will submit the budget request to the Selectmen's Office on September 30, 2019.

Ken Cogswell notified the Trustees that the ground penetrating radar project to determine the number of graves in the Poor Farm Cemetery and the Poverty Plains Cemetery has been completed. Bob Perry of Topographix LLC has submitted maps of the two cemeteries with specific locations of possible graves. He is in the process of finalizing a written report describing his methods of determining possible gravesites, and will submit the report when finished. This project was completed without town funds.

Ken Cogswell was notified by Lynn Clark of the Warner Historical Society that she received an e-mail from an Allison Loris about an unauthorized burial of her mother's ashes back in October 2000, in either the Tory Hill Cemetery or the Coal Hearth Cemetery on Pumpkin Hill, along with the request to place a plaque at such location. Lynn thought that the Trustees of the Town Cemeteries should deal with this matter.

Ms. Loris stated in her e-mail that years ago she had either buried or spread her mother's ashes either at Tory Hill Cemetery or the Pumpkin Hill Cemetery (i.e. Coal Hearth Cemetery). She would now like to place a plaque at that location.

A discussion ensued. No member of the present Trustees recalled a request by Ms. Lawless to bury or spread ashes in either cemetery. Ken Cogswell has volunteered to respond to her e-mail with the following questions:

- a) In which specific cemetery did she bury or spread her mother's ashes?
- b) Does she remember the exact location in such cemetery?
- c) Was the burial or spread of ashes within a cemetery or outside the boundaries?
- d) Did she bury or spread the ashes on or in an existing gravesite?
- e) Does she have an official copy of her mother's death certificate? (If so, the Trustees would like her to send a copy the town of Warner for our records.)
- f) What kind of plaque (metal, plastic, flat or upright) does she want to place at the site? (The Cemetery trustees would prefer a simple flat stone marker.)

The Trustees suggested a fee of \$200.00 be charged for the placement of a marker at the site (if possible) without interference with other graves. It should be noted that all lots in all the Warner cemeteries, except the New Waterloo Cemetery, have been sold and/or are filled with burials.

Ken Cogswell also mentioned that he met with Town Road Agent Tim Allen about a couple of spruce trees that had fallen this past spring along Pine Grove Cemetery Road (opposite the Face house) in Pine Grove Cemetery, off of Rt. 103 (West Main Street) in Warner. Because it had fallen on a

maintained town road, Tim had the fallen trees removed. (Additional trees have fallen on the hillside, on the boundary lines of Pine Grove Cemetery and the Face family property, and they have been removed. Gerald Courser mentioned that more money may have to be spent on tree removal in the future.

The Trustees adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cogswell

Trustee of Town Cemeteries