

Village of Skaneateles
Cemetery Board of Lake View Cemetery
Regular Meeting – May 19, 2015

Present: Patricia Blackler, Commissioner, Acting Chair
Susan Murphy, Commissioner
Mary Marshall, Commissioner
Rob Gray, Commissioner
Gary Trenti, Commissioner
Jorge Batlle, Cemetery Administrator
Roben Shappell, Deputy Clerk

Absent: Robert Gray, President

Comm. Blackler called the meeting to order at 9:07 am, at the Burrows Chapel at Lake View Cemetery. Mr. Batlle presented the historical nature of the building. The chapel was designed by Call & Hanz, architects, and it was constructed in the early 1920s by Valentine, a Syracuse builder. The building is 24 feet by 32 feet, and was constructed of Onondaga gray limestone at a cost of \$25,000. The building was donated by and is named for, Charles Burrows. Mr. Burrows, originally from Skaneateles, resided in Little Falls New York where he was President of Mohawk Valley Paper Company.

Upkeep – monument straightening - Comm. Blackler repeated the positive discussion she had had with Marcia Carr on the resolution to the Pitman matter, but noted that the Pitman stone required straightening, as do a few others in the cemetery as noted by Ms. Shappell. There is some question as to whether that work will be performed by the DPW staff or contracted to a specialist. After discussion, the specialist route is most likely. The Village will identify some candidate firms.

- **Swisher flat marker** – Ms. Shappell indicated that we have a request to have this placed no later than May 30. Further discussion is needed on who will place the foundations going forward, but extra attention is needed to make sure this is accomplished. *Subsequent to the meeting Mr. Dundon contacted Barnett, who will ensure that they place the foundation prior to installing the flat marker. They will have this done by the due date as a one-time accommodation.*

Delineation of responsibilities – Mr. Dundon explained that at the request of Mayor Hubbard the Board is being asked to develop or adopt some changes in the responsibilities for services provided to the cemetery. Because of the abnormally large number of important capital projects being undertaken by the Village, the Mayor wants to ensure that DMO Harty can step aside from any coordination roles that may have been handled by that position in the past. Likewise, there may be a need to contract out some work that has been traditionally performed by the DPW staff. Mr. Dundon handed out and read aloud a summary prepared by DMO Harty that outlined the traditional involvement in cemetery matters and made suggestions as to how these might be

handled in the future. After discussion, the Board agreed to reflect on these areas and suggestions and to define or consider alternative solutions at its June meeting. Comm. Blackler noted that the seasonal workers have defined responsibilities in spring to ensure that the water is turned on in the cemetery and that cemetery facilities are clean and neat.

Seasonal Workers. Comm. Blackler encouraged all to stop by to meet the seasonal workers, currently Burt Jordan and Mike Plunkett. The members were encouraged to let the workers know that they will be supported by the Board. She also noted that maps of the cemetery sections are available at the cemetery garage/office.

Cemetery Administrator – Mr. Battle committed to ensure that the listing of 2013 interments is provided to the cremery.

Section 11B and Prices – Comm. Gray handed out Pres. Gray's analysis of costs at various other cemeteries in the area. Based on this analysis, Pres. Gray is suggesting that the Board raise prices across the board. **After discussion, on motion of Comm. Trenti, seconded by Comm Gray, on a 5 – 0 vote of the Commissioners in favor, the Board approved a 20% increase in grave prices, a \$100 increase in opening fees, and a 10% increase in foundation prices.. The new pricing will be effective July 1, 2015, and the Board agreed to revisit it in 2016 based on financial performance. In the same motion, the Board authorized the opening of Section 11 B for interments also effective July 1, 2015. The revised pricing will apply to the new section as well.** Mr. Battle suggested that the Village place newspaper ads in the Skaneateles Journal and the Skaneateles Press announcing these changes. He and Mr. Dundon will work on the language for the ad.

Chapel Vault Repairs - The Board noted that there is a section of gutter on the Burrows Chapel that needs to be reattached. Mr. Dundon said he would coordinate with DMO Harty and would contact Richard Meyers to have him perform this work prior to Memorial Day.

Historical Records - Comm. Blackler showed the members the compilation of burial records that had been updated and published covering the period 1796 through 1988. She encouraged all members to review the document at their convenience

Transactions -

Section 6, Lot 139, 2 north graves, monumented
Deed 12, Book 9
Trust Deed 3278

Robert C & Robyn M. Cooper
5 Chestnut Circle
Skaneateles, NY 13152

Section 11A, Lot 241, 5 graves, monumented
Section 11A, Lot 242, 4 graves, monumented
Section 11A, Lot 243, 4 graves, monumented
Section 11A, Lot 244, 4 graves, monumented
Deed 13, Book 9
Trust Deed 3279

Jim & Kim Tracy
2833 Shamrock Road
Skaneateles, NY 13152

Comm. Murphy suggested that for Memorial Day that the Chapel might be open but roped off. It was noted that previous attempts to do an open house have not turned out well

Next Meeting – The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 16, 2015.

Upon motion of Comm. Murphy, seconded by Comm. Trenti, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon
Clerk to the Boards