

**Village of Skaneateles**  
**Cemetery Board of Lake View Cemetery**  
**Regular Meeting – February 28, 2017**

Present: Rob Gray, Chairman  
Pete Buehler, Commissioner  
Mary Marshall, Commissioner  
Roben Shappell, Commissioner  
Sue Dove, Village Trustee  
Jorge Batlle, Cemetery Administrator

Absent: Susan Murphy, Commissioner  
Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. He thanked the members for accommodating a revised meeting schedule.

**Upkeep –**

- Foundation work Chapel & Vault – Chairman Gray has only received one quote for the work to improve water intrusion into those spaces. That quote was from Dave Bean in the amount of \$14,000 total. Ch. Gray is going to be introducing Lake Property Management to the project in hopes of attract another quote. This will be budgeted to come from FY 2018 funds, meaning that work will be next summer.
- Tipped monument foundations – Barnett has completed its assessment and has provided a quote to repair 14 monuments. Additionally, the Village received an email from Ms. Case some time ago reporting that the Pitman stone has still not been taken care of. The Village requires that the stone be removed from the foundation before the Village DPW repairs or replaces the foundation. Barnett has not received assurance from either the family or from the Village agreeing who will pay for the work. Regulations and past practice establish that removal and replacement of the stone is the responsibility of the family. In the Pitman situation, the stone has separated from the base and has been propped up so as to be visible. Rather than just resting on the foundation, this base appears to have been mortared in place on the foundation, so removal of the base is made a bit more complicated. The regulations provide that in the absence of the family accomplishing the removal, that the Village may arrange the necessary work and bill the family.
- The Brock family as expressed a desire to acquire two additional graves in Section 5, though a specific selection has not been made. Two are being held for the Brocks. The remainder of those lots are now available to the public.

**Consideration of draft rules, regulations and fees as proposed by Comm. Shappell and DMO Harty** – The second draft has not yet been prepared. Comm. Buehler suggested that the

Board should take up and finalize these revisions in the March meeting or as soon thereafter as practical. The revisions should include recent actions taken by the Board:

- a fee of \$150 for layout and inspection of his custom monument foundation. For consistency, that fee should be included in the fee schedule.
- the appropriate cost for a cremation grave of \$725 for an upright grave and \$550 for a flat marker. Those are the prices for Village residents, others will be marked up at a consistent percentage. The Board noted that there may be certain grandfathered situations in which more than two cremations might be allowed in a grave.
- any decision made by the Board in the near future regarding co-use of a lot for both full burial and cremation remains, including the number of openings allowed. This question arose from a recent situation in which cremains were placed in a casket and buried. Our regulations allow for one full burial and one burial of cremains in a single lot.
- the regulations should be consistent with Village Attorney Pavlus' memorandum on the disposition of Unused Cemetery Lots, which, if followed, would protect the rights of a surviving spouse or surviving children. This memorandum was presented to the members at the January meeting and acknowledged.

**Budget** – The Board discussed some specifics regarding the FYE 2018 budget. We are hopeful that the seasonal workers will return this season, and their costs must be budgeted. The Board is not aware of any new equipment needs, since a new lawn mower was acquired last season. Cemetery Materials and Supplies has \$1,100 remaining out of the \$5,000 budgeted. Comm. Shappell cautioned that April and May costs are yet to be incurred. The Board wishes to include the Vault and Chapel work in this account pending another quote. Any remaining account funds might be used to pre-purchase materials required for this work. The Bean quote suggested the materials for the Vault work would be \$1,093.50. The DPW would be enlisted to remove the sod from the roof of the vault; the Bean quote stated a labor component of \$2,720 to power wash and make repairs to the roof structure. Work on the Chapel is in addition. The entire budget for this account might be \$16,000 or more for FYE 18, since it includes fuel, cement and military markers. Admin services and insurance should remain about the same. Tree maintenance should be \$1,000 to \$2,000. There are two remaining trees for section 11B to be placed this year, they were already paid for. Significant amounts of pruning and shaping were accomplished this winter. Chairman Gray will contact DMO Harty to refine the Board's inputs.

**Second Uses of Graves; Cremations and Full Burials** – Chairman Gray outlined a recent situation in which buried cremated remains were disinterred to make way for a full burial. At the family's request, the urn was placed in the casket. The Board was asked if that would allow a new cremation burial to be accommodated in that grave. After discussion, the Board concluded that Cemetery regulations allow only two people in a grave, unless grandfathered.

**Anthony Turo Sale of Graves Section 11A** – Mr. Turo has two lots in Section 11A that he has been trying to sell for some time. He had placed a for sale sign on them that was subsequently removed. Mr. Battle has the availability of these two lots posted on the wall of the Cemetery building and he mentions their availability to every prospective purchaser. Mr. Turo will stand to make a profit; he bought the lots for \$500, the current pricing is \$900. The Village will not have a role in any prospective transaction, the buyers will have to deal with him directly. He should provide the purchaser with a statement of assignment of ownership. Upon the sale of his

current lots, Mr. Turo intends to purchase a substantial mausoleum site in Section 11B. Trustee Dove asked if it were possible for the Village to buy back the lots? Ch. Gray and Comm. Shappell said that there is no precedent or mechanism for the Village to do so.

**Status of unoccupied family graves, if no remaining family members** – Ch. Gray said that he has a funeral scheduled Friday for Ms. Mors. He was approached by her long-time companion, Bill Quirk, regarding possible interment in the Cole family plot, which has 3 remaining lots. Mr. Quirk’s adopted parents are buried there, his mother being Mr. Cole’s sister. George Cole allowed his brother-in-law and sister to be buried there. Mr. Quirk says that he is the last remaining relative in the Cole family. According to Attorney Pavlus’ opinions, the last living relative should have the say over who is to be buried there. The Board expressed concern that there may be some Cole relatives around. Mr. Quirk would have to demonstrate that George Cole has no relatives. The Board believes that, per Atty. Pavlus, the precedence is to Mr. Cole’s children, if any, and then to any brothers or sisters and their families. The Board wondered if Mr. Quirk might be offered a site location close to his parents?

**Cemetery Administrator** – Mr. Battle corrected the January minutes which incorrectly stated that Lake View Cemetery had been added to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The State designation is in place, the National Register designation is pending final action. He then noted that the last 2-hole outhouse in Skaneateles was in our cemetery near the old garage location. It is no longer standing. Mr. Battle requested the following clarifications:

- There will be 2 additional trees planted in Section 11B to complete what was started last year.
- Cremation plots in Section 11B only accommodate 1 cremation burial.
- We cannot sell a single grave in a multiple grave section.
- In section 11B, do not sell anything beyond the Winkelman plot. Stay with lots numbered on the map. The Board does not want to open up all of the new section yet.

**After discussion of specific lots, upon motion by Comm. Buehler, seconded by Comm. Marshall, the Board authorized sales of lots shown on the map as far as the row from Lot 254 to Lot 614. The motion was carried on a vote of 4 – 0.**

**Transactions –**

Section 11B, Lot 601, Deed 40, Book 9 Trust Deed 3305	2 graves, monumented	Marjorie Reynolds 3835 Highland Ave Skaneateles, NY 13152
Section 11B, Lot 618, Deed 41, Book 9 Trust Deed 3306	2 graves, monumented	Joyce A Thomas 69 State St Skaneateles, NY 13152

**Next Meeting** – The Board confirmed that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 21, 2017 at 9:04 am. Comm. Marshall will not be available.

This meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 10:11 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon  
Clerk to the Boards